お兄ちゃんだけど愛さえあれば関係ないよねっ

2

鈴木大輔
Daisuke Suzuki

閏月戈
Illustration

MF文庫
J

お兄ちゃんだけど愛さえあれば関係ないよねっ

2

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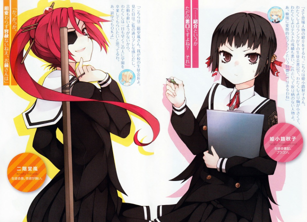
Illustration

・・・とでも言うと思ったの？
バカなの？
死ぬの？



「さて登場人物の紹介をするわ。こちらは姫小路秋子さん。
わたくしよりランクが下の生徒会書記で、わたくしより胸が小さくて、
わたくしよりテストの成績も悪い、これといって取り柄のない人物よ。
あ、極端に変態的なブラコンという特徴だけはあるわね」

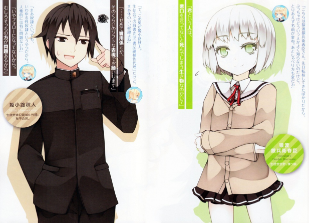
「……**紹介**というか
ただの**悪口**ですよね？　それ」

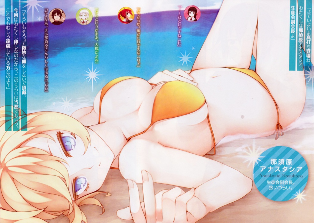
「こちらは二階堂嵐さん。我が校の生徒会長。
見た目はご覧の通りアレな感じだし、
言動も救いようがないから、
わたくしは一日も早くこの人に学園を
卒業してもらいたいと思ってるわ。
あ、退学でもOKよ」

「かっかっか。
相変わらず**容赦**ないねえ、お**前**さんは」

二階堂嵐
Arashi Nikaido
生徒会長。性欲が強い。

姫小路秋子
Akiko Himenokouji
生徒会書記。
ブラコン。


「こちらは猿渡銀兵衛春臣さん。先日転校してきたばかりだから、ぶっちゃけどういう人かよく知らないのだけど、とりあえず名前が変ね。あとしゃべり方も変だわ」
「君という人は、悪口を言ってないと死んでしまう生き物なのかい？」
猿渡銀兵衛春臣
Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi
生徒会会計。僕っ娘。
「で、この男が姫小路秋人。生徒会での肩書きは「書記補佐代理」だけど、まあ体のいい奴隷よね」
「……せめて雑用係とか、そのくらいのソフトな表現でお願いします」
「まあ奴隷といっても、いわゆる性奴隷というやつだから、人権的には特に問題ないわ」
「いやフォローになってないから。むしろそっちの方が問題あるから」
姫小路秋人
生徒会書記補佐代理。秋子の兄。


「さていよいよ**真打ち登場**ね。
わたくしは**那須原**アナスタシア。
生徒会副会長よ」
「…ひどいですねこれ」
「かっかっか。確かにひでえなこりゃ」
「…というかまあ、大概だよね」
「だよなあ。まあ那須原さんらしくはあるけどさ」
「そろいもそろって**微妙**な**顔**をしないで**頂戴**。
今回はわたくし**押し**なのだから、このくらいは**当然**でしょう。
これでもむしろ**遠慮**している**方**なのよ？」
那須原
アナスタシア
Anastasia Nasuhara
生徒会副会長。
扱いづらい。

contents

四月八日(AM7:00)(始業式翌日) 011
同日(AM7:30) 022
同日(AM7:45) 034
同日(AM8:00) 054
同日(AM8:15)(聖リリアナ学園・生徒会室) 075
四月九日(AM7:00) 091
同日(PM4:00) 102
四月十日(AM7:00) 124
同日(PM4:00) 135
四月十一日(AM7:00) 170
同日(PM5:00) 182
四月十二日(AM9:00) 206
四月十三日(PM2:00) 230

ふぅ
営業スマイルも楽じゃないわね

お兄ちゃんだけど愛さえあれば関係ないよねっ ②

鈴木大輔

MF文庫J

口絵・本文イラスト●**閏月戈**

Chapter 1.1: 8th April, AM7:00

(One day after the opening ceremony)

"Brother-complex is indeed inconvenient, but it is definitely not a curse!"

It was morning at the dining table, in the administrator office of the St. Ririana Academy's students' hostel.

My rather incompetent sister suddenly said that, with her eyebrows arching up.

"Many people have the misconception that having a brother-complex = having a curse. There are even some narrow minded people who firmly believes that brother-complex is some sort of mental illness. People that had committed such serious errors have repeatedly appeared, and that is the sad truth. But, even so, we should never give in. We should firmly maintain our stance, and fight against such prejudice to the end."

"..........."

Upon facing my sister, who had made that grand speech all of the sudden, I stopped my hands from eating breakfast,

"Well, even though I don't really understand what you are talking about. I'll just say that - brother-complex is not something that wonderful, alright? You can't openly be in love."

"Hmph. It's something that I already know...... but Onii-chan is one of those pitiful people who are plagued by the sickness called common sense. That is probably the only weakness of my brother, whom I am deeply in love with."

"But if you are a bro-con, your will not be able to have healthy children, right? The fact is, the union of genes between two closely related relatives will result in the hindrance of development of the future generations. That had been already proven by both history and science."

"Yes, about that! I was about to talk about that!"

"Stop waving your fist and chopsticks about. That's rude."

"It is precisely due to this taboo, that makes such passionate love even more exciting!"

My sister ignored my reminders and continued on.

"I dare say. That brother-complex is a gift from god -

an irreplaceable talent."

"Aha."

"Indeed, because of the fact that I am a bro-con, I had occasionally suffered from gratuitous criticisms. Sometimes I am treated unfairly by people subconsciously as well, and I'm not able to take revenge on them. I have to admit, in regards to my everyday life, this is a rather inconvenient characteristic."

"Compared to these things, why are you not eating? The food will get cold if you don't eat soon, you know?"

"But, you cannot say that it's a curse or anything! Everyone doesn't know what sort of happiness I had been enjoying everyday due to me loving Onii-chan a lot! As someone who treats my blood-related brother as a member of the opposite sex and loving him deeply for that, they had no idea what sort of glorious life I have been living!"

"...... You know, it shouldn't matter even if the opposite party is not me, right? The amount of happiness that you feel will be the same even if the other half is not blood-related to you."

"No you are totally wrong! It is against morals, but precisely because of that, we can savor absolute happiness! Also, would anyone find a romance enchanting if it was smooth sailing? The answer is nope, absolutely no one!"

"Ara. This morning's rice is really delicious."

I had realized this conversation will not end anytime soon.

I ignored my sister's speech, and changed the subject.

"Each and every grain of rice is full and glossy. It is obviously different from those of the past. Could it be that you had switched to another type of rice?"

"Please Onii-chan. This tactic will no longer work, you know?"

Che che che, my sister wiggled her index finger.

"Akiko had already experienced it personally, the skill that Onii-chan is proud of, which is to change the subject of the conversation. That's right, if you think that I'll always fall for that, then you are terribly wrong."

"Upon closer inspection, you had mixed various types of rice into this, right?"

"Huh!? You found out!?"

My sister showed an expression of half in shock, and half in glee.

"I had planned to be secretive about it, but who would have thought that it will be found out that quickly....... as expected from Onii-chan."

"This probably...... is some sort of inexpensive rice, right?"

"Ah, you are sharp. Yes, that's how it is. I used a type of really ordinary rice, that cost five hundred yen per kilogram."

"Eh...... Even so, this rice is really delicious."

"Yes. Actually, it is not just the expensive types of rice that are delicious."

"Uhuh. Which means to say, it is something like blending coffee, right?"

"As expected of Onii-chan. It is just as you say."

"I see. No wonder I find the taste that intriguing. To be able to make 1+1 equal to 3 and even 4, you are really wonderful."

"Ehehe. Thanks for your compliments."

"Come to think of it, where did you learn such techniques from? Did the Arisugawa family actually teach you stuff like these as well?"

"No, how can that be? This is taught by the boss of the rice shop, whom I have gotten familiar with recently. With the Arisugawa having such good reputation, they will only use organic rice of the highest quality. Actually, with just some effort, commonly-priced rice can be as delicious as this...... those people's minds are really rigid."

"...... Sigh, but I am really sorry, to have caused you to go through such troubles."

"? Is anything wrong?"

"No, it is just that our family budget is really tight. You had even learned techniques like these, because you want to lessen the burden on us, even if it is just a little. Isn't that so? If only I can earn more money, then it will be easier for you as well."

"Onii-chan what are you saying? I am extremely satisfied with our current lifestyle, and everyday I am really grateful to Onii-chan for living together with me. To be as thrifty as possible, and using it as a basis for a better life, that is my responsibility as a wife. Onii-chan should focus on his work, while I focus on the housework, isn't this wonderful?"

"Hmm I guess. Although I had spotted a certain term that is quite wrong. Well, so that is how it is huh. If you put it like this, then I'll feel a lot better as well. You are really a capable younger sister, Akiko."

"Ehehe, thank you. Well, Onii-chan, please eat it before it gets cold. There is still more, you know?"

"Mmm. Since it is so delicious, I'll just eat slightly more."

"Alright, please eat to your heart's content. Also, I had spent extra effort on the miso soup as well, did you notice that?"

"Ohhh? What did you do?"

"Kuku. Please take a guess."

"Uhh- Hmm...... Upon hearing you say that, the saltiness is slightly richer than usual...... No, could the secret be in this rather dark color? Uhh- Hmm......"

....

....

....

"-Oh. It is this time already?"

"Ah, it really is. We had accidentally chatted too much."

"If we don't hurry up, we will be late."

"It's alright, Onii-chan, please go to school first. I'll go after clearing the dishes. Today is my turn to be washing the dishes."

"Oh. I am really sorry about that."

"Don't put it to heart. I really want to go to school with Onii-chan together - but it will not do if we do not follow on these rules."

"Mmm yeah. That law-abiding attitude of yours is really dependable."

"No, it's nothing like that."

"Mmm, Well then-"

I stood up from the short table, and checked on my looks using the mirror on the ground.

But the fact is, until now, my body was still not used to wearing St. Ririana Academy's rather old-fashioned uniform.

Today is the first day of work, as a member of the students council. Even though being given the post of deputy assistant of secretary (errand boy) is not something out of my own will. It won't do if someone like me, who had just transferred into the school, played around with my duties. I'll be an utter embarrassment for my sister, who is the secretary. As her elder brother, I don't wish for anything like that to happen.

"Well, then, I'll be leaving."

"Alright. Be careful, Onii-chan."

Opening the huge door of the wooden seventy-years-old shabby apartment, I was welcomed by the winds of late spring.

Today is a clear day that is almost cloudless. The chance of rain is almost 0%.

As for myself, Himenokouji Akito, who is talking his first step into a new chapter of his life, this is definitely something good,

"Ugh, no —— that's right!"

My sister chased up with me, who was walking out of the hostel. She was breathless.

"Hold on a second Onii-chan! I am not done with my speech!"

"Hmm? I had listened to you talking quite a bit about the methods of mixing rice, as well as the secrets of the miso soup."

"Not those things! It's the topic about how being a bro-con brings about inconveniences, but it is definitely not a curse!"

My sister just rushed onto the streets while still wearing her apron, with her eyes becoming that of an inverted triangle,

"Really...... Onii-chan you're too much. You had actually escaped away from your cute sister, who was trying to tell you something important, by changing the subject. I have said that I'll not fall for it again, right?"

"Mmm, I guess you did say something like that. But you had bitten at my bait almost at full force, you know? Just now."

"Ignore that for the moment!"

She pointed at me with a *swoosh*.

"Because this is something important, please listen to me carefully! Until you had listened to everything that I have to say, you are to stay here and not move-"

"Well then, lets just leave it at that. I am short of time."

"Wa-!? You turned your back towards me and leave in a hurry after saying that!? That's enough, there is no use running. With my godly speed that can run fifty meters in a mere six seconds, it will be easy for me to catch up to Onii-chan-"

"Oh. Right, right. You are to clear up the dishes immediately, and not to leave them for later. Your brother dislikes children who does not follow the rules, you know."

"T-That's too much! You had planned to trap me with that all along!? Onii-chan you're an idiot! You're mean!"

I pretended not to hear the protests of my sister. I increased the pace of my steps, and walked hurriedly.

...... Well well.

I had a feeling that today will be a rather messy day.

Chapter 1.2: 8th April, AM7:30

Sixteen years old. Male.

Second year of high school.

Ordinary height and weight. Average looks. Grades are neither good nor bad.

Current living together with my bro-con sister, who had to be described with the adjective 'extreme' - aside from that, I have nothing that will attract the attention of others. I am your typical uninteresting guy.

That was everything about me, Himenokouji Akito. Up till yesterday.

"Which means it is because of that? We had harshly ridiculed your sister about her brother-complex yesterday, isn't that so?"

While on route to St. Ririana Academy.

Upon picking my call, my friend, Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi, chuckled while saying that.

"That is because me, kaichou and fuku-kaichou had ostracized Akiko, with the reason being that she is your blood-related sister. For her, she will want to reestablish her self-identity. Or rather, she needs to have some sort of theory to once again establish her own legitimacy."

"Ah- so that's how it is......"

I nodded my head while having my cellphone on my ear.

"Brother-complex is indeed inconvenient, but it is not a curse!"

My sister's sudden outburst of that line, which sounded like a certain slogan of a rather popular book - so that's the reason behind it.

Which means to say.

On the day of the opening ceremony, due to the reason of her being blood-related to me, my sister had endured condemnation from them, though it was rather close to persecution.

As for her, who dared to call herself as a bro-con, and had absolutely no intention of giving up her treating me as a member of the opposite sex. She would have to come up with some sort of plans to stage a comeback, by her own means.

"Well, whatever. But, do not go overboard with the teasing, Ginbe. Even if she is like this, she is still my precious little sister."

"Well well. What sort of rights do you have, to be able to say that, as someone who was standing along side with us to tease your sister."

"No, umm. Well......"

"Fufu, you don't have to be that vague about it. I understand very well regarding things like these, that you are forcing yourself to display that sort of attitude. You had kept a certain distance away from your lil sister's brother-complex, because you want to clarify your stand to the public, right?"

"...... Well, it's just as you had said."

"It's not like we had only known each other for a day or two. You can't hide things of such level away from me."

"Then again, what's the meaning of this? If you already know it, then please stop saying those nasty things."

"Fufu, please don't say that. It is one of the few hobbies of mine, to make fun of your pain."

With that said, Ginbe chuckled again.

Well, for Ginbe who has a mysterious beauty due to her silver hair and emerald eyes, you can almost say that it is the only shortcoming that she has. She is actually a multi-talented person - it would be great if she could have more decent hobbies.

"Fufu, what's wrong, Akito? Even though we are separated through the phones, I can still clearly understand that you are currently showing an expression, as though you had just eaten an extremely sour dried plum."

"How very irritating...... Well, whatever, I am prepared to endure through it anyway."

"Endure what?"

"That hobby of yours - even if I am to be courteous, I still can't compliment you for it. Well, I'll just turn a blind eye on the details. If I was to say why, it will be because that you are not only my friend, but also my benefactor."

"Ahhhh. That's how you see me?"

"Well of course. Didn't you deliberately moved from Kyoto to Tokyo, because you are worried about me? I was rather shocked...... but to be truthful, I am really happy."

The reason she had not informed me about her transfer to St. Ririana - "it is so that I can shock you, to have my small revenge on you" - that was how Ginbe had put it. I do know very clearly, that it is not the truth.

"Really, Ginbe, you are the perfect friend. I wish to maintain our friendship for life. If possible, if you can continue to be my good friend, and to get along with me as always...... There is nothing that will make me happier than that."

"..........."

Hmm?

Huh?

I had actually channeled in all my grateful feelings, and said such embarrassing things. But somehow, Ginbe's side became silent.

"What's wrong? Did I say something wrong?"

"...... Oh my. I had already knew it very clearly...... but to hear you saying it so directly once again, it feels really horrible."

Ginbe said that, while mixing in her sighs.

"Really, how the heck does he interpret things, to reach that sort of conclusion? No, I do know it. Indeed, my way of speech and my rather poor figure - even if one is to be courteous about it, they can hardly call it as feminine. But, even so, you can still......"

"Eh? What? I can't hear you properly."

"It's nothing. It's just that I had that small urge to rage at how dense you are."

"Oi oi what's with that, that's not nice. Also, I don't think I am a dense person, right? Or should I say, and I am not tooting my own horn, but I am a rather sharp person, despite how I look."

"Ohhh? Then can I test you by asking you a question?"

"Of course. Whatever you like."

"Yesterday, your sister was ostracized by us - me, kaichou and fuku-kaichou. The reason was that lil sister is your blood-related younger sister. Do you know the reason why?"

"Eh? Do you even need to ask? Because it is fun to see how she reacts when she is being teased? Things like her being my blood-related sister, it is just an excuse, right?"

"...... Whatever. I knew that is what you are thinking."

Hmm?

Huh?

From the tone of her voice that came through the phone, it sounded like she was somehow very shocked - or rather, it was near the point of despising me.

"Eh, why? That's not it?"

"Don't be that flustered. That is because I had no expectation of you getting it right."

"Oi oi what's with that. If there is another reason for it, then tell me about it."

"Put your hands on your heart and ask yourself, you blockhead."

After saying such a cold line,

"In any case, I have already decided. I am sorry, but from now on, not just at you, but at your sister as well, I'll be proactive in bullying you both."

She actually said such a thing.

"Oi oi hold on a second. Why have you came up with that conclusion? What's the meaning behind that? I don't understand."

"You are worried about your lil sister's weird actions, and called up after you had left your house. This is irrefutable proof of how much you love your lil sister."

"Of course? She's my dear younger sister, you know?"

"So you have to treasure her that much just because she is your lil sister? Don't you think it is inevitable for me to be jealous of her due to that? Or else the balance will not be maintained."

"What's with maintaining balance and all that. I am even more confused now."

"Just to add on, it's not just me. The whole students council, except both you siblings - they will have the same stance as me."

"Ehhhhhhhhhhhhhh?"

W-What did that person just say?

Which means to say, those sly students council members will be teaming up to pick on my sister.

If it becomes like that, my sister will think of all sorts of things to retaliate with all her might. But no matter what, her opponents are just to powerful. The result will definitely be her surrendering miserably, and running away with her tails between her legs, while crying her eyes out.

And then- And then-

Hmm. Perhaps it will develop in a surprisingly good way.

Or rather, it looks like it will be really fun.

Hmm, that's good. Hmm.

"...... What are you silently laughing about?"

"Eh? How do you know that?"

"I had known you for so many years already. Things of such levels, I'll know it even if I cannot see your expressions through the phone...... Well relax. I am prepared to tease her, but I'll know my limits. I do rather like your little sister, if I ignore the fact that her brother-complex is way beyond the limit. I can't bear to see her crying her eyes out."

"What. So it's like that."

How disappointing.

That incompetent sister of mine - the more she is being teased, the more she can unleash her cuteness. If Ginbe was to help, it will much way more effective in seeing and appreciating the cute side of that girl.

"...... Akito. You are not coming up with something bad, right?"

"Eh? Absolutely not. I am just thinking, it will be great if Ginbe is to tease Akiko more, so that I can see more of that girl being cute."

"...... Oh my."

Ginbe sighed.

I am not deliberately using her lines, but it is not like I had known her just for a few days. The sight of her shaking her head while listening to the phone, it was as though I can see that right in front of me.

"You are not just an extreme sis-con, but you are a rather horrible sadist as well. So that's what it means to be hopelessly incurable. Damn, how slow of me...... I have not even found out about your weird sexual preference until now. This is totally the symptoms of the late-stages. There's no cure."

...... Hmm?

Huhhhhh?

It's like, I had been brutally scolded by her?

"No no. Hold on a second Gin. I am not a sis-con? And the thing about me being a sadist - that's a huge misunderstanding."

"Really, there has to be a limit on how much obstacles there can be. 'A wolf at the front door, and a tiger at the back door', so that's how it is huh...... If that's the case, no matter where we strike, we will not live to see the day. Oh well, does that mean that my days are numbered, for me to be attracted to such a guy......"

"Eh? Ha? What are you talking about? I can't hear you properly."

"Shut up, you are pissing me off. It's nothing. Akito, just die on the moon by getting kicked by a horse. And never come back."

"Ehhhhh? W-Why are you that angry? I don't really understand, but did I spoil your mood? I am sorry, please forgive me."

"Hmmph. Spare me those half-hearted apologies. It's not like you are someone in debt, for you to be smiling and begging for forgiveness. I just get angrier and angrier, thinking about the treacherous plans of such a man. That's enough. I am hanging up."

pacha

duu-duu-duu-

"Ah- damn. She really hung up on me, that Gin."

I switched off my phone and swallowed hard.

That's really scary.

Have I made that person mad again?

The no. 1 person whom I do not want to piss off. She had not only looked after me many times, but she also knew many of my weaknesses.

Even though she is a rather rational person, who says things like "to be angry at you, and to forgive you - they are two separate matters". Somehow, when talking to me, she had occasionally flared up without rhyme or reason. If she had none of those problems, she will actually be the best friend one can have.

Well, forget it.

The original objective for the phone call - to enquire about the the weird actions of my sister - has been achieved.

As for Ginbe's attitude, I'll just accept it optimistically as her way of expressing her friendship.

It must be that. After moving here, as I was really busy, I could not properly keep in contact with her regularly. She still took that to heart even until now, and is currently throwing her tantrum at me. That's right.

It won't do if I don't take some time off to placate her. I'll just bring along her favorite cake and visit her some time soon - that's how I reflected on myself.

Chapter 1.3: 8th April, AM7:45

St. Ririana, the school I am studying in, is one of the top few royalty schools in Kanto.

I guess all schools with a long history would be like this, where they retain many of their old traditions.

It's that type of school. I guess all schools with a long history will be like this, where they still retain many of their old traditions.

The members of the students council are to stand at the gate of the school daily, and greet all the other students who are coming to school - this is one of them.

"Good day, Nasuhara. Today is a fine day."

"...... Good day."

"Good day, Anastasia-sama. You are beautiful today, as always."

"...... Good day."

Today's her turn to do this, the job that every students council member has to take turns to do.

Nasuhara Anastasia.

With golden hair and sapphire eyes, and a figure that one cannot find fault with. Although she is a beauty that one wouldn't dare get close to.

She had surprisingly became my colleague - or rather, my superior - as she is the vice president of the students council.

"Ara. Good day."

As usual, she did not really mean that, as Nasuhara was just saying it out of what was required of her (but even so, the students were still looking at her rather nicely). She had spotted me and got into a conversation with me.

"You still had that depressed look. It shouldn't be that bad, but somehow, coming from your face, that expression of yours just seems surprisingly funny. What is above your neck is like that of Takuya Kimura, but what is below your neck is like that of the idiotic Sakata - how's that analogy of mine? Can you understand better what I am trying to say?"

...... Sigh, how should I put it.

She was totally like her normal self.

Using insults as a replacement for greetings, I think that is probably the rule of the Nasuhara family.

"Morning, Nasuhara. You are in tip-top condition today as well."

"Just Anna will do."

It was like she was calling me out, who was giving a bitter smile and trying to sneak past her,

"I should have said that before. Just call me by that."

"...... Oh-?"

"You dislike it? In another words, that's your way of saying that you want to maintain a certain distance from me?"

"No no no. How can that be?"

"Then please don't address me so distantly by using 'Nasuhara-san'. You should be calling me intimately by 'Anna'. That will make me much happier." [TLNote: Akito always address Nasuhara with the -san suffix, but I had removed it normally as they are not necessary]

"Ugh, is that so. I understand. Well then...... Morning, Anna. You are in peak condition today as well."

"Fu. To call a girl by the term 'hole', you are a really impressive man."

"...... Oh well, that's right. I knew you are going to say that. That is the reason why I don't want to call you by that, you know?"

I sighed.

Her hard-to-get-along personality is also just as usual. No matter how you look at it, she was deliberately saying those things, which made it worse.

No, I couldn't say that I hate it. In any case, I should say I have no idea how to get along with her. Due to her not having much change in her expressions, it is hard for me to see what she is thinking about as well.

And so.

I had decided to retreat quickly, as that was the best course of action.

"Well then, see you later, Nasuhara."

"Hold on."

However.

Her cold but clear voice, which lacked any change of emotion. It pinned me onto my grounds, just when I was about to make a right turn and leave.

"Where are you going?"

"Where can it be, but the students council room? There is a meeting today, right?"

"If that is the case, it will be fine if you go there together with me, right?"

"But, you are currently working, aren't you?"

"That can be solved by having you to wait for my work to finish before we go there together."

"Ehhhh? In another words, you want me to work together with you?"

"It certainly looks like that."

"No, I am sorry. I wish to reach the students council room first, to brush up on my studies and stuff. My grades are not that good, so in order to catch up to the standards of this school-"

"It is really irritating to listen to you jabbering on and on. Be careful. If you do not act as I please, I'll force you to guess the color of my lingerie today."

Ah- Enough!

She had brought up that old gag again!

"Incidentally, today's colors are pure white."

"No no there is no need to tell me that...... I say, we had talked about it before, but those sort of things, it is better if you don't keep talking about it, right? No matter what, you are still the vice-president of the students council of this school."

"What you had said do make sense. However, I have to apologize. That is my favorite gag. Once I like it, I'll use it till it rots. It is just like one believing that a well chewed chewing gum still had a little bit of taste in it, and thus he continues chewing on it."

"So you like it that much......"

Well, that analogy was rather tacky and shabby.

Could it be, that this girl over here, she is not the daughter of a certain rich family?

"I like this gag a lot, and I shall not allow anyone to be mouthy about it. If someone is to complain, I will never forgive him, even if he is god."

"So you saying that you are not even afraid of god now."

If I remember correctly.

St. Ririana Academy should famous for being a rather devout Christian school.

"Even if that person is to get completely naked, has his back stuck with a piece of paper that says 'go cry to your mother', and was made to crawl about in public. Even if he cried and licked my shoes while declaring to everyone that 'I am the absolute in heaven and on earth', I will still absolutely refuse to forgive him."

"No I say, since he had reached that point, it's better to forgive him......"

"And thus, from today onward, whenever there is a chance, I'll be using this gag at any situation. I hope you will understand this."

"No that...... Since you love that gag that much, it's not good if I forced you to abandon it. I understand, feel free to use it."

"Incidentally, the reason for liking this gag so much is because when I am using it, your expressions will change to that of disgust."

"Ah- Damn, I knew it is something like this! You had seized the opportunity to openly declare me as an idiot!"

"It is really irritating to listen to you jabbering on and on. Be careful. If you do not act as I please, I'll change your lunch for today to a lingerie feast."

"And you have immediately used your favorite gag! Just this point, you are so easy to understand!"

Also, what was she saying? What's with the lingerie feast?

Has she really reached the point, where so long as she can use the gag, nothing else matters anymore?

Even if I was saying all those things, I am still someone who is game enough will join others in the things they do. In actual fact, I am still at the school gates talking to Nasuhara.

The harder someone is to get along with, the more one wishes to get along with them...... This is an irony that will be faced by humankind forever.

Well, I am repeating what I had just said, but I do not hate her. She is a little strange, but at the same time, she is an interesting girl. As such, I won't deny her of my company, and will continue talking about silly things with her.

Even though I had said that, the current situation-

(Oh boy. It looks like things had gotten troublesome.)

I suddenly realized it.

All the students who were entering the school, were looking at this direction.

It looked like they were enjoying the show, while directing looks of curiosity, envy and jealousy at the same time.

Ugh.

That was not a good sign.

No matter what, I am someone who had just transferred to this school, which means I am an unknown person.

As someone who is new here, I had fervently wished that I will not cause anything that will get attention from others.

You see, there is a saying, 'the gun will fire at the bird that shows its head'.

For the students council, which consists of talented people - for me who had somehow gotten into it mistakenly, I am obviously the 'bird showing its head'.

Adding on to that, the whole school had already known the sensational speech that this golden haired beauty had said.

.... Oh well.

"Please allow me to be your girlfriend."

How did she managed to say that sort of thing out front of everyone.

And that Nasuhara, to think that she had just said that to me yesterday, and yet here she was, talking to me with an expression as though she just teasing me.

Whatever. She is someone who will suddenly say some rather shocking things. Perhaps it is better if I don't take what she had said yesterday seriously......

"Back on talking about you."

"Eh? What?"

"No matter what, you still belongs to a member of the school's students council. So straighten your back."

"Huh? Ah, mmm."

"No matter how hard you try to hide it, you are still a 'bird showing its head'. That is a fact that can no longer be changed as of now. Don't you think it is better to have some sort of self-awareness, if you are to continue living your school-life at this academy?"

"Oh, yeah. Right."

Hmm-.

That's troublesome.

I thought I am someone who will not openly show his feelings and thoughts, but it seems like Nasuhara had totally seen through me. Perhaps I should take note of that.

"Even though I said that, I do think it is slightly too demanding for you to be straightening your posture for now, considering that you had just transferred not too long ago. It is definitely true that St. Ririana Academy has a slightly different atmosphere as compared to the outside world."

"Yeah, that's it. It really is like this. This is an elite school that has a rather strong studying culture. For someone like me, who had average grades, to transfer here, it is really rather difficult for me."

"I can understand that. I was troubled by the same thing when I first enrolled into this school one year ago."

"Oh-? Is that so?"

How surprising.

Nasuhara gives me the impression that she is someone who will not lose her blank expression, even if the world is to turn upside down. So there was a period of time where she was not used to the school as well.

"If you had felt so as well, how should I put it - I feel slightly better now. It sort of feels like I will be slightly forgiven, even if I do not get used to this place immediately."

"That's right. But it is better if you get used to here as soon as possible."

"Mmm. Of course."

"The reason for you not being used to this place, is due to the fact that you had not given others a rather good impression of yourself."

"Yeah. That's right."

"I had a good solution for that. A brilliant idea that will pull you out of all the bad impressions that you had been suffering from."

"Eh? Really?"

"Yes, really."

"So generally, what sort of idea is it? Please do tell me about it."

"Can I say it?"

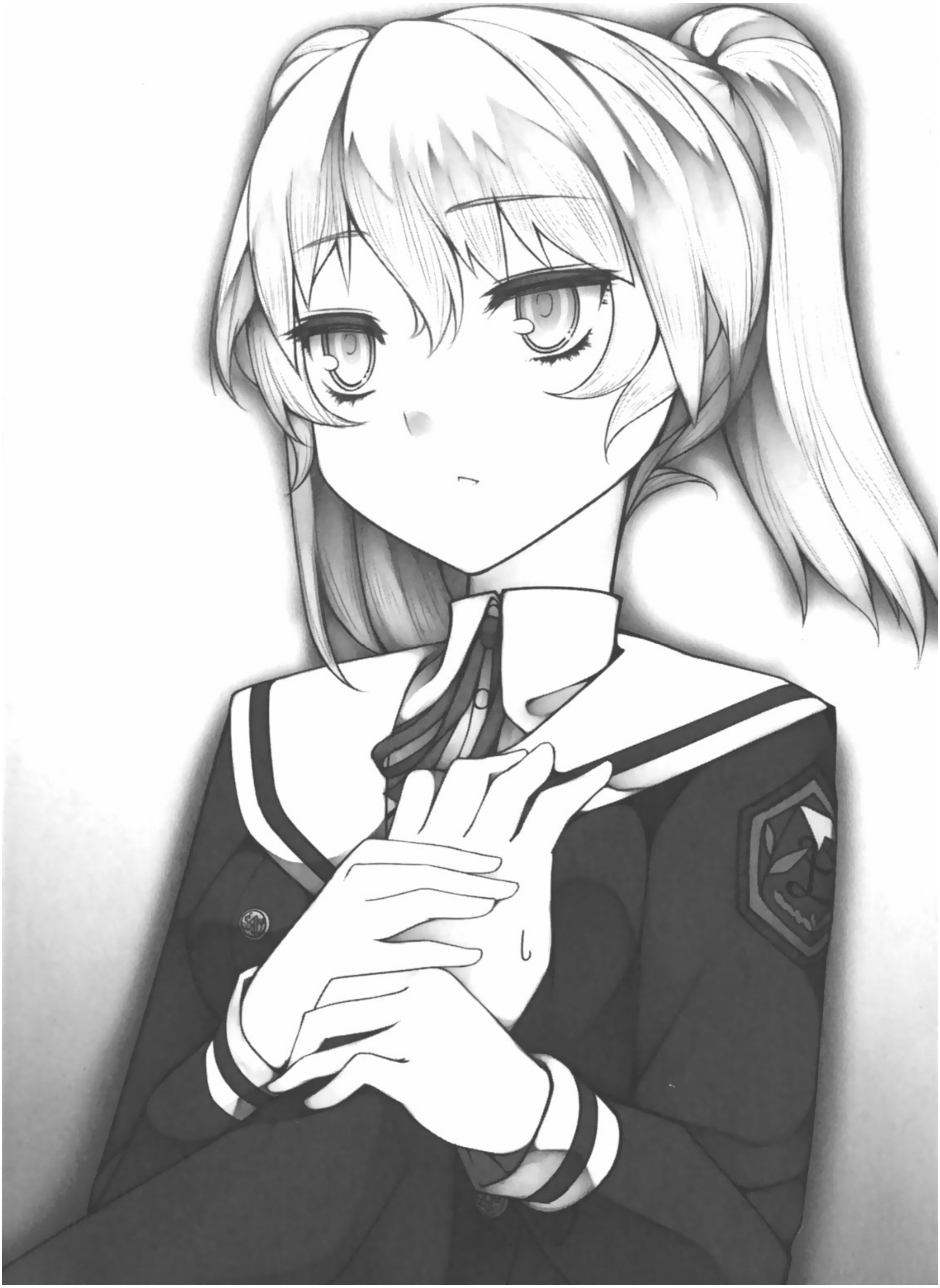
"Mhmm. Without reservations."

"Is that so. Understood."

While saying that, Nasuhara nodded her head, and took a step towards me.

She gingerly picked up my hand.

Following that, she placed my hand onto her chest.



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Eh? Huh?

As the sequence of events was executed way too smoothly, I was temporarily stunned for a while. But,

"Whoa!?"

Obviously, that was a really bad situation.

I removed my hand in panic, and jumped a step back,

"Oi, what are you doing!?"

"Just like what you had seen. You were touching my breasts."

"No hold on a second! Please don't make it sound as though I was the one who took the initiative, alright!?"

"Rather than saying you had touched it, it should be that you were groping it. Does it sound more appropriate if I put it that way?"

"No I did not grope! I had just touched it! And that was something that could not be helped!"

"Is that so. Well then, what are your thoughts after touching it?"

"Thoughts, well obviously......"

It was *really* soft, yet at the same time, springy. The size of her breasts are perfect as well- no wait such things don't matter any more.

"Well then what the heck were you doing! What was the meaning of that!? Why did things turn out that way!?"

"What do you mean by things turning out this way and that. It's just a countermeasure for your poor image."

"That thing just now!? How does that work out!?"

"Because if we are to give others a horrible impression of you, that is way worse and of a totally different level. They will then not remember those minor stuff about you that they had earlier."

"How the hell did you came up with that!"

I hugged my head while staring into the sky. I was really an idiot to trust her. Rather than saying that her line of thoughts are too unpredictable, I should say that they are something that is out of the ordinary.

"This is the so called reverse psychology. Fighting poison with poison, that's how it is."

"No, nothing was solved!"

"It's fine if you are to praise me more on my brilliance."

"And you are actually showing a rather proud expression!"

"You are really a guy who keeps jabbering and complaining too much. If you are to complain any further, I'll change your handkerchief into my panties, and stuff it into the pocket of your uniform."

"Just that point about you grabbing onto the tiniest opportunity to use your favorite gag. Your alertness is indeed incomparable!"

Enough, you animal.

I never thought that such trap will be waiting for me this early in the morning. What sort of looks will the onlookers give? Nasuhara can be considered as someone who is really famous in school. After touching her breasts like that, what will happen to my standing at school in the future-

"Everything is fine. Don't worry."

However, in contrast to me being at a loss, Nasuhara said rather calmly,

"It is within my expectations for you to react like this. I had done so while taking the opportunity that no one around us is looking."

"Eh? What do you mean?"

"Which means, at the moment where you are violating my breasts, there was no one who had seen it. So do not worry."

"Ahh...... is that so. That means that I am safe. And also, what do you mean by me violating your breasts?"

"Thus, what happened just now is just a sort of demonstration. Whether you want to continue doing that, it will be up to your own judgment."

"I am sorry, but I humbly decline."

"Such things, if you don't continue doing it, it will not be effective."

"I'll be caught by the police before any effects will ever take place."

"Is that so. How regretful."

Nasuhara said that without any sense of regret, while showing an expression as though nothing had happened.

Really...... this girl, she is someone who does things that no one would be able to predict. But even so, she is still the fuku-kaichou of a famous elite school, so she should possess a certain amount of capabilities and popularity.

"Anyway, I had not received your answer."

"Eh? On what?"

"Your thoughts after touching my breasts."

"....... No, it is nothing about thoughts or whatever. All my attention was directed towards my shock, so I had noticed nothing else."

"Were you excited?"

"Nooooope."

Or I should say, I couldn't get excited.

If someone was able to get excited under that sort of situation, his tenacity must be something rather enviable.

"Is that so. So you are not."

While saying that, Nasuhara looked straight into me.

Upon taking a close look, she is a really beautiful girl.

Her eyes had a calmness similar to that of aquamarine, while giving out a light of clear brilliance.

Her snow white skin was like that of heathers that grew on the snowy mountains.

The precise arcs of her cheeks emphasized her beautiful face.

Lets not talk about whether I was excited or not - she was an impeccable beauty that one would not get tired of looking at.

"Urm-...... W-What's wrong? If you are staring at me without blinking, should I say that I am feeling quite uncomfortable, or......"

"So that is not the best course of action?"

It looked like Nasuhara did not hear a single thing of what I had said, and was muttering to herself.

"I thought that he would be really disturbed about it if I was to let him touch my breasts, which could nearly be considered as a world heritage. It looks like I may have to tweak my strategies a little."

"Huh, what? What did you just say?"

"Nothing. I am just talking to a child."

"Eh? Isn't that a rather problematic line......?"

"I say,"

Ignoring my question, Nasuhara looked towards my back,

"That girl, she did not come here with you today?"

"Eh? Who's the girl you are referring to?"

"Arisugawa- no, she is Himenokouji now."

"Ah Akiko. She will be here slightly later as she still have some housework to do."

"Hmph, is that so. Looks like she managed to live for another day."

"Eh? What do you mean by that?"

"That is because, I am doing this students council work early in the morning. If you are to arrive at school in front of me, while behaving rather intimately with your sister, I'll be so cruel with my words that she will probably feel like dying."

"Uwa."

That was really dangerous.

Nasuhara is someone who is fluent with her speech, while at the same time, expressionless like that of an ice statue. If she was to be serious about picking on someone, that person will probably suffer a lot.

"...... You seems rather happy."

An illusion of hers, probably.

Nasuhara, whom rarely had any sort of change in her expression, looked at me with a rather dangerous stare,

"Your sister was actually on the verge of being cruelly treated, so why are you smiling like that?"

"Eh? No no no, I did not?"

"Even if you did not show it on your face, I still know it, if the person is you."

"Is that so? ...... Forget it. But you and Akiko are in that sort of relationship where the both of you will quarrel about the smallest things, isn't that so? To me, I think it is alright as long as the quarrels do not get out of hand. There is a saying, that the more you quarrel, the better the relationship becomes."

"But the person who has always been winning is me, you know?"

"Indeed, it feels like that. But whatever, that doesn't really matter. To chase that person and console her while she is crying, that is the responsibility of me as her elder brother as well. And also, I think that sort of Akiko is rather cute as well."

"..........."

After I had said that, Nasuhara closed her mouth tightly, and stared at me for a while.

"Haui," she gave out the rare sigh of hers as well.

"Even though I had noticed it already...... But you are really a sis-con. And one that exceeds my imagination."

"...... Eh? Why has it become like this? No no no, as an elder brother, that is normal, right? To clean up the things that my sister has done, and to find my sister cute."

"Forget it. So that is what it means, by something being much more worthy to conquer if there are more obstacles on the path to it."

While saying that, it was as though she had accepted everything by herself.

Not only that, she waved her hands as though she was trying to chase me away, "I'll just let you go this time. Just hurry up and go. Whether it is self-studies or whatever, do anything you like."

"Ah. Urm. Can I?"

"But. Don't think that I'll just give up like this."

"Ah, urm. Right."

I did not really understand, but it looked like she was willing to let me go.

But somehow, I was being misunderstood. Forget it.

We have to get along with each other for quite a while anyway. There will be plenty of opportunities for me to clear up the misunderstandings, yeah.

Chapter 1.4: 8th April, AM8:00

At St. Ririana Academy, the students council are the school's enforcers that wield an enormous power.

Their strength in authority is often compared to that of extraterritoriality.

For example, they can freely spend the huge amount of donations that the school had received.

Also, they have the power to change existing rules, or create new rules for the school.

They can even miss their lessons, and still receive the required academic credits, depending on the conditions and situations.

There are other powers which they have that makes people wonder, 'is it really alright to grant such huge authority to a group of young teenagers?'

Because of all that, it can be said that the students council enjoy special treatment in the school.

And the person that becomes the president of the students council is thus even more outstanding than the rest.

Even in a school that has gathered all descendants of powerful families. Or rather, in a school where students of exceptional studies and talents are everywhere, the president still stands out from everyone else.

Accepted by all the elite students to be at the top, the elite of all the elites.

He must be popular among the students, and is required to have the abilities expected of him as well, or else he will not be up to task - at least that is how it should be.

"Yo. You are the earliest here huh?"

Upon entering the students council room, the girl rudely placed her legs on the redwood table, and struck a conversation with me.

"Good morning, my dear lover number 4. In any case, take a seat first."

"Morning Seito-Kaichou. It's really troubling for me, if you make such casual statements early in the morning."

I am neither your lover nor am I number 4.

"Ahaha. You are rather hard to handle."

"It's your jokes that are hard to handle."

"Oh well, it is precisely due to that, which makes me fall in love with you, you know? I like that more, compared to say, your techniques at night."

"When, where and how did I show you my techniques of the night?"

"Ototo. This fella is so hostile early in the morning."

"I can't think of any single reason to be friendly to someone who calls me lover number 4."

"Alright, stop saying such inconsiderate stuff."

That person with an expression of totally ignoring what I had said, and was laughing with a "kekeke" voice - she is the student with the highest power in St. Ririana Academy, someone whom we all should be proud of.

A red ponytail, an eye-patch over her right eye and a Japanese sword hung at her waist. Her casual attire is something that is comparable to her attitude.

The president who was chosen out of all the talented people available - such is Nikaido Arashi...... Ah, how embarrassing.

"I say, Kaichou. A question......"

"Oh. Ask anything you like."

"Say, if I am number 4. That means there is 1, 2 and 3, right?"

"Of course. Number 1 is your younger sister. Number 2 is the emotionless golden-hair who had confessed to you. Number 3 is that silver-haired friend of yours whom had chased you all the way to here."

"Well, none of them are your lovers, right?"

"That's nothing. They will all be after a while. My policy is to never lose sight of my prey, you know?"

What a disturbing policy.

And for some unknown reason, her ability in that is so powerful, it's baffling. What's so scary is that if we are not careful, it will become as she says, in a blink of an eye.

"Well, don't show such a depressed expression. I may not look like it, but I did reflect on it for a while."

"Reflect?"

Upon hearing a term which I did not expect to be hearing from Kaichou's mouth, I knitted my eyebrows slightly.

"Reflecting, on what?"

"You see, I have so many lovers, right? But sadly, I have only one body. If that is the case, no matter what, the time spent on a lover will become very little."

"Well of course."

"What a sad fact. Well of course, I am confident that my love for each individual lover will not lose to anyone...... but no matter what, there has to be a limit. For a number of thirty lovers, no matter what I do, there will be some areas where I cannot address adequately."

"Thir-Thirty plus people?"

Though I had heard about her having so many lovers that she could not even hug them all with her two arms.

This person's sick in the mind or something.

Is she a seal that is in heat for the whole year? And not a male seal, but a female one.

"Thus, I had decided that it is about time for me to sort out my relationships."

"Hmm, a rather reasonable conclusion."

"And so, I had broken up with those thirty plus lovers."

"Eh? When?"

"Yesterday."

"Yesterday!?"

In just a single day?

Since there was the opening ceremony yesterday, that means it was all done within half a day?

"Of course, those are friendly break-ups. Emotional break-ups are not suitable for me."

"Is that really true......? With thirty people? And there was not a single trouble from all that?"

"Yeah. I am not tooting my trumpet, but I had never quarreled with my lovers."

What?

It is shocking enough to just go around maintaining her relationships with her thirty-plus lovers. Just how good is this person at interacting with people?

Indeed, Nikaido-kaichou is someone who is more than meets the eyes.

I was wrong to be saying things like 'how embarrassing'.

She is a perfect candidate to be commanding St. Ririana Academy. If she is there at the top, there will be one day where she does something that shakes the world.

"As such, for my aspirations this year - I'll be executing my plans to change the students council into my harem. It's named <Doki☆ The students council where everybody is my lover! And there are touching scenes too?> ...... How's that? It's a great idea yeah?"

"..........."

Sigh, forget it.

To a certain extent, that is a rather shocking matter.

"Kaichou."

"Hmm? Will 'All scenes will makes you cry' be better?"

"I had never said or thought of anything of that sort."

"Well then, are you touched by my huge ambitions?"

"That's not quite possible. Not only the idea itself is stupid, but your ambitions are also rather narrow as well. Since you said you had reflected, I thought that you had became slightly more decent...... Since you are reflecting, you might as well reflect on your rather rotten night-life."

"Ahaha. Impossible, impossible. That part of me is extraordinarily strong."

"Please do not be that honest at such things. Back on topic, why the sudden break-ups with your lovers?"

"I just said that right? I had reflected on it."

That smiling face of hers was as though it was formed by
the crystallization of her fearlessness and confidence. Kaichou said,

"There is a saying that goes, 'the person who goes after two rabbits will get none'. I am not boasting, but up till now, I had already gotten god knows how many rabbits."

"That's boasting. And a rather obvious one."

"Well, it looks like my godlike ability had became rather dull recently. People whom I cannot conquer even with my charms and speech had began to appear, one after another. And they looked really delicious, that to me, just for those people, no matter what happens, no matter what I must do, I want to make them mine."

"Haa?"

"As such, I had a change of plans. I have given up on getting everybody. I've thus cut down my target down to four rabbits."

I see.

So that was why she was saying things like students council harem.

Fuku-Kaichou Nasuhara.

My sister, who is the secretary.

Nikaido had prepared the seat of treasurer for Ginbe yesterday, and it looked like she had accepted the job.

And I was given the title of Deputy Assistant of Secretary, to be at the students council as the errand-boy.

And thus her so-called four rabbits had been gathered here.

"Oh- but this is rather troublesome. Because it will be really difficult for me to live through the night, now that I had broken up with everyone at one go. It is extremely lonely to have no one by my side when I wake up. I had totally forgotten about that."

Well, she is the Kaichou that gouges herself, in terms of sex.

I feel like that makes a rather decent cure.

"However, I had immediately reaped rewards from it."

And then.

The Kaichou who had rudely placed her legs onto the table.

Very slowly, as though she was deliberately showing me her swapping the position of her two legs, where one was placed on top of the other.

And after that, she got down from the rather high chair of hers, which was encased in real leather.

"If you ask me why, that is because I had always been in a state where I felt full, and thus I had forgotten how it feels like to be hungry again. Ahh, how nostalgic that is. When my stomach is empty, I feel so hungry and thirsty. It's at the state where I am nearly going crazy."

She was slowly~ advancing towards me.

...... Hmm?

Huh?

It felt like the atmosphere was changing......?

"To be reducing my number of targets - for me, it can be considered to be my very first humiliation of my life."

Upon regaining my senses, Nikaido Arashi was already in front of me.

And then, I had finally realized that I was already totally swallowed in by her imposing aura.

As Kaichou was of nearly the same height as well, it became crystal clear after she was of such a close distance to me.

Everything on her face was so beautiful, it was scary.

"As such - I absolutely cannot allow the remaining prey to escape."

Her eyes were glowing like ambers that had been roughly polished, but yet there was still a deep shine in her eyes.

Her perky nose.

Her luscious lips of hers, as though it was a sakura covered in morning dew.

And the perfectly balanced contour of her face, which exquisitely holds on to all the above features.

Up till then, I had finally realized for the very first time.

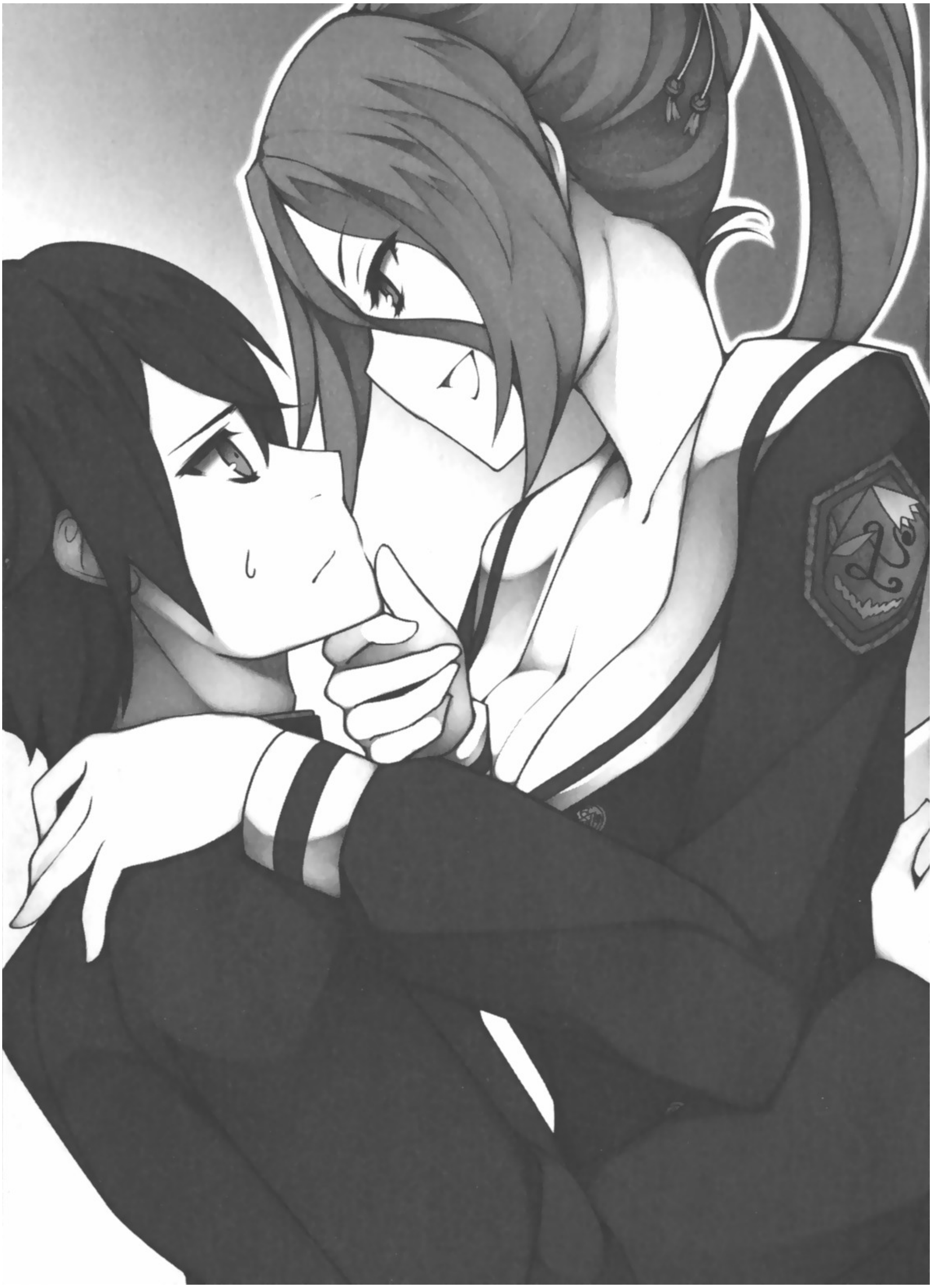
Her weird looks and actions, are just a sheath to make the blade, called Nikaido Arashi, look seemingly harmless.

Those sort of blades that hung from her waist, they are nothing but blunt swords, when compared to herself.

Nikaido Arashi should be the blade that everyone fears.

It will not be dangerous if she was encased by her sheath...... But once the blade has been pulled out, then it will definitely aim for the target, and end the battle in an instant.

"Himenokouji Akito. Be my man."



Kaichou's voice sounded to me as though it came from somewhere far away.

...... Things were not looking good.

Even though my brain knew, but my body could not response to its calls.

I could not shift my eyes away.

It was as though I would be swallowed, or sucked into her. I was enchanted by Nikaido Arashi.

Kaichou was someone who could totally control the 'grounds' to her favor.

Of course, the students council room is her home-ground, and as for me, who was there for the first time, there was the factor of it being my away-ground as well. It was a place where it will be easier for Kaichou to eat me, and for me, a place where I would be eaten more easily.

But that could not explain everything.

Such binding and coercive powers, it had already reached the stage of hypnosis, you know?

It had probably started the moment this place had only both of us. Nikaido had seen me as a prey, and was planning to hunt me.

And then, she tricked me into the spider's lair, which she had painstakingly woven.

Each and every words and action of hers had venom hidden in them, which bound me.

Damn.

I had planned to be separated from her, but it looked like that was just a 'plan'.

Nikaido Arashi. This person. She is really dangerous.

"Ku ku. What an obedient child."

That's settled - she must have believed in that.

Kaichou narrowed her eyes bewitchingly, and gave out a rather sweet smell.

Slowly - and it was really slow - her lips approaches mine—

"Hold on a second—!"

Just then.

What came together with the loud opening of door was.

"Things shall end right here Kaichou! Please get away from Onii-chan!"

My sister's hair was in a mess, and she was panting furiously.

"Come, Onii-chan. Come to me!"

After pulling me to her back, she furiously stiffened her shoulders and snarled at Kaichou with a "Fu!"

Oh......

Had I ever found my sister's back to be that dependable in the past?

"Thank you Akiko, I was saved. You had arrived just at the right moment. Ah, that was close. I was thinking what could had happened if things were to carry on."

"Onii-chan you idiot————————————!"

I was scolded.

Her eyebrows arched up way more than when she was intimidating Kaichou.

"That is why I had said to Onii-chan, right!? You cannot get close to this person! Not to mention, you were alone with Kaichou in such an enclosed place. It was as stupid as someone who was trying to grow flowers on a mine-field! Onii-chan, do you not treasure your own chastity!?"

"Ah. Urm. Sorry."

"If you are really sorry, then please hug me!" [TLNote: As said before, hug can means sex in Japanese]

"Why."

"Or you can continue with what you were doing back then, but with me!"

"So I say, why are things going that way?"

"Enough! By saying such things, it means to say that Onii-chan is not repenting! At such a bad child, I have to punish you with a *kiss*, alright!?"

"No that's enough. In any case, calm down."

Forget it.

Regardless of whether she is calm or not, my sister typically acts like this.

In any case, such a thing had happened precisely because I was careless. That was the truth as well.

I had to repent deeply, for forgetting my sister's advise.

"Arara. My plan was spoiled by a gooseberry."

The hunter shrugged her shoulders and laughed loudly, after letting her prey escaped, when she was that close to catching it.

"The feeling is gone now, so I'll try again next time."

I could no longer see any trace of seductiveness from her body.

What I could see was just someone who looked like a vagabond of the Bakumatsu era, and was exposing herself for everyone to see. As though she was declaring, "I am harmless!"

Ahhh, such quick changes are comparable to that of a chameleon.

A capable eagle always hides its claws.

For someone to be that well described by this old saying, I could think of no one else but her.

"As long as I am not blind, I'll not allow you to lay a finger on Onii-chan. I'll definitely protect Onii-chan from your venomous fangs."

"Ha ha ha. That's a pretty good aura from you. I like this part about you a lot as well. If only you are to become my lover, then everything will be perfect."

"I humbly decline. I am dedicated to only my Onii-chan."

"Great, great. I like your dedication as well. That gives me more incentive to conquer you..... But even though I say that."

She took a deep breath.

Nikaido-kaichou narrowed her eyes rather menacingly.

The Kaichou who is like a chameleon, changed her stance in an instant.

"Himenokouji. You are indeed my precious backup to my lover, and I do indeed love you a lot as well."

From a sunny vagabond, she turned into a cold executioner.

All just in the blink of an eye.

"However. For interrupting my hunt and my meal, I'll have to repay that debt, since they are two different things. As my subordinate, as the secretary, you do know things like that, right?"

"I-I'll not be intimidated by that sort of threats."

"This is not a threat, you know. This is simply the death penalty."

Kaichou took a step forward.

Similarly, my sister took a step back.

"It is the job of the king to mete out rewards and punishments. Things like disciplining my subordinates, it will not do if the superior does not carry out her responsibilities, you know?"

"I-I am just stopping Kaichou's indecent acts! I had done nothing bad!"

"At here, my words are the law."

"That's way too unreasonable! I oppose!"

"Stop irritating me. Strip now."

"Strip!? Why!?"

"Ah stop talking- stop saying all those unnecessary stuff, and let me eat you. I had not eaten since yesterday, resulting in all these pent up stress. You are to take responsibility for that."

Kaihcou closed down onto my sister with the looks of a predator - or more accurately, the looks of a hungry breast.

In response, my sister had grabbed onto a broom next to her and took on a stance.

As for me, there was no reason for me to remain as a spectator. I should stop them when the time is right. Or at least that was how things should be.

"What are you guys doing?"

"The two of you are pretty energetic in the morning."

The perfect timing.

Nasuhara Anastasia.

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi.

I did feel like it was about time, but for them to appear together, it was really lucky.

"...... Che. Things are not on my side today."

Due to the appearance of another two subordinates, even for Kaichou, she had decided that it was time for her to stop.

"I'll just give up for today. Himenokouji, you owed me one."

"Owe!? Why!?"

"You, do you think you can just interrupt my meal as you please?"

"That is because Kaichou was about to do that to Onii-chan-"

"What exactly had happened?"

Nasuhara interrupted.

"Please explained what had happened, so that Ginbe and I can understand everything."

"Oh, that is-. Listen to me, you two."

"I see, so that's how it is. Well, due to all these reasons, it is obvious that Himenokouji is at fault."

"Oi, Nasuhara!? Please do not say such things when you had not even listened to Kaichou's explanations! And please do not decide by yourself that the one who is wrong is me, alright!"

"No no no lil' sister. That is not wrong."

Ginbe interrupted as well.

"Honestly, one can easily guess what had happened here. It is probably just Kaichou being too sexually deprived, and had requested you to relieve it, right?"

"Well- that is roughly correct, but! There are many things that had happened before that!"

"No, this is not a good situation, you know. You are the secretary of the students council, which means to say that it is your job to assist the president in all sorts of things. Not to mention, that thing of Kaichou is much higher than that of normal person, even I, who had just knew her not too long ago, know that. To be that uncaring towards Nikaido-kaichou, to the point where she lost control - that was obviously you failing to do your job. Aside of that, I can think of nothing else."

"W-What did you expect me to do, regarding that!"

"That's easy. Just be Kaichou's lover will do."

"Definitely no!"

"Or you can be Kaichou's sex toy or something."

"That is even worse, alright!?"

"Why won't you just listen...... what exactly do you want? If you don't be more obedient, I'll lock you and Kaichou in an enclosed room that is soundproof, and force you to spend the night with her."

"That. Is. Why! Why does everything have lead to that!"

...... Well, that's how it was.

Just like that, things has somehow muddled over. How gratifying (?)

As for my sister, who had became a sacrifice due to her standing up against Kaichou, I was really grateful to her - or should I say, if possible, I would very much loved to help her.

Nasuahara and Ginbe, just like what they had said, had took turns to bully Akiko. It looked like Kaichou had her own thoughts regarding Akiko as well.

Forget it, I shall not disturb them for now. Even if I do, as someone who was wrongly called as a sis-con, I would be bringing myself trouble if I interrupt them.

And also, how should I put it.

To see my sister being ruthlessly bullied by the three of them - that was really cute as well. If so, I should just enjoy such service. I guess this is human nature as well-

Even though that was what I thought.

"Alright. It's about time we stop all these fun."

pa, pa

It looked like Nikaido-senpai was in a really good mood. She attracted all our attention.

"The meeting is about to start. Everyone, get to your seats."

She settled things just like that. To me, it was like, just as expected from the *boss* of the school.

Well well.

Come to think of it, that was really scary.

If I were to say why, it was because from morning up until now, all sorts of things had happened.

And only an hour had past by since the start of the story.

How will things develop in the future...... I gave a soft sigh, while looking at the four beauties taking their seats from the corner of my eyes.

Chapter 1.5: 8th April, AM8:15

And so.

Finally, the students council meeting had started, after much difficulties.

To be truthful, I was slightly nervous.

After all, St. Ririana Academy is one of the few top royalty schools in Japan, so much that they are well known back at Kyoto as well.

Not only it is a place for the elite of the elites to gather, but it authorizes extraterritoriality as well. And the group that holds on to these powers, is precisely the members of the students council.

Under the lead of the students council president, Nikaido Arashi, I wonder what will be the topics for the first meeting of this semester - as someone who had just transferred into the school, and as the holder of the lowest position in the students council, it was something really interesting.

No matter what, please do allow me to observe.

It was obvious for Kaichou and Nasuhara, but even that incompetent sister of mine - they should be the top students of this school. While Ginbe was new here just like me, I had already learned about her high performance a long time ago.

Ahh, what sort of talks will be held by these people?

......

....

I say.

Where should I sit?

Kaichou, fuku-kaichou, secretary, treasurer.

Up until now, those were the name-plates on the respective tables. It was obviously for the original three members, but even Ginbe had managed to found her seat without trouble.

But for a rather awkward position like 'Deputy Assistant of Secretary', I don't know if I should say that it was to be expected, but I could not find my seat anywhere. As such, "Oi-. You are to sit here."

Thus.

Nikaido-kaichou signaled to me, who was lost,

"Sorry, sorry. I guess I did not prepare for your seat, since your position was something that I had fabricated on the spot. I had forgotten out of carelessness."

"No matter what, you are the president, so please do not use terms like 'fabricated'."

If it was during the normal situations, those who had voted for her will surely question the trust they had placed in her.

"Forget it, lets not care about that for the moment...... Well, where should I sit?"

"Yeah, for now, just sit by my side. Since you will not be doing anything important for today, you shall just experience first-hand the atmosphere here."

...... Whatever, I guess that was a rather appropriate arrangement.

If I was to say it, this rather lengthily named position of mine, was something that Kaichou had decided on her own. In actuality, I should be something like Kaichou's private secretary or something.

And also, to me, since it had already came down to this, I do want to see the unfathomable abilities of Kaichou.

"Understood. Then I shall be at Kaichou's back-"

"Please hold on for a moment."

Just then, Nasuhara interrupted.

"For the students council of this school, the role of the secretary should be under the jurisdiction of the vice-president, right? His role is the Deputy Assistant of Secretary. As such, the management of him should naturally be the responsibility of me, the vice-president. Shouldn't it be this way?"

Huh?

I was not aware of this rule, since I am extremely new. Since Nasuhara had said that, then it should not be wrong. Definitely.

"And so, the most suitable position of his seat should be next to mine. No objections?"

"Oh. If we are to put it that way, then can I say something as well?"

Just when I was thinking that, Ginbe had spoken up about her own opinion as well.

"I am not too sure about the rules of this students council, but similar to Akito, I had just transferred over to this school. As fellow newcomers of the students council, we should pick up the jobs from our senpai together, right?"

Ugh.

Upon hearing that, it made sense.

It was rather obvious in regards to me, but Ginbe too had just joined the students council two days ago. I didn't really think there was much of a chance for her to be involved.

Or rather, we will be hindering the meeting if we were to randomly interrupt them without knowing anything. In such a situation, it will be better for Ginbe and me to sit at the side together, and just observe the meeting.

"Wait a second, everybody."

This time round, even my sister raised her hand.

"If that is the case, then I have something to say as well. Ultimately, if we are to talk about the position of Onii-chan, then just as the name suggest, he should be there to assist me, the secretary-"

"Rejected."

"Oi Kaichou!?"

My sisters opened her eyes wide when her speech was interrupted with a rather straightforward answer.

"I am not done?"

"Mmm. Well, yeah. As an ending gimmick, I thought it will be better if I do something like this."

"Those sort of feelings that should be coming from a comedic alien are unnecessary!"

"Well, I guess if you were to bathe with me everyday, it will be fine for you to continue."

"Why do I have to agree to that sort of request!? If that's the case, then isn't my position here a little too weak!? Please listen to me like normal!"

"Slightly off topic, but speaking about bathrooms, some public baths had recently turned into a place for prostitution as well."

"I don't think it is appropriate for you to be saying these 'fun-facts' at such a time!"

"Well, that's how it is."

With that said, Nikaido-kaichou simply cut the subject off.

My poor sister could not keep up with the pace at which Nikaido-kaichou had changed the topics, as such, she had lost her chance of expressing her own views.

Mmm. Such was the difference in capabilities.

"I understand everyone's stands now."

Kaichou stood up from her seat,

"It has been decided. The discussion topic for the very first meeting of the new semester shall be this."

She wrote on the whiteboard, with a set of beautiful handwriting.

"Round one, tada! Who shall sit beside Himenokouji Akito?"

...... Urm, well. What should I say?

Had I held some overly weird fantasies for the students council of this school?

That was totally the case.

"Urm- pardon me, Kaichou."

"Yes?"

"Regarding about that topic, my opinion has not been sought, despite being the main subject of the matter. Can I say something?"

"...... Alright. Shoot."

"I wish to sit next to Akiko."

Just as I said that, the whole atmosphere of the room changed.

Nikaido-kaichou, Nasuhara and Ginbe, changed into a rather dark expression, and looked like they were about to sigh.

Only Akiko showed a beaming look, as though she was welcoming the gardens of summer.

"Onii-chan...... Akiko had always firmly believed, that Onii-chan and me are always in love since the start of time."

"No, no, it's not like that. I say, isn't this rather natural? You are my younger sister, and my superior as well. If we are to talk about my position, the things Nikaido-kaichou, Nasuhara and Ginbe had said do make sense as well, but if I am forced to choose, then things will ultimately go in this way, isn't it?"

"Fufu, you don't have to be shy about it, Onii-chan. I am very~ clear about it, about Onii-chan's true feelings."

"No. That expression of yours clearly shows that you did not understand."

"We might as well announce our engagement and stuff right here, okay?"

"Indeed, you do not understand."

I gave a sigh.

Oh well, I knew things would become like this.

Even so, I had decided that it would be better if I was to state my stand clearly, instead of wasting time on such mundane matters. The result was exactly what I had expected, right down to the fact that I had helped to increase my sister's delusions......

"Kukuku. Since it has been decided, then let us not waste our time. Here, Onii-chan, take a seat here. Let us both stick close together and attend the meeting-"

"Himenokouji."

While my elated sister was waving her hands at me, Kaichou interruped.

"I am sorry, but can I ask you to do something urgent?"

"Something urgent? Right now?"

"Mmm. Sorry- please help me to buy an anpan." [TL Note: Anpan is a sweet bun filled with red bean paste.]

"A-Anpan?"

"Ya, I don't know why, but I have a sudden craving for it. Ah, don't forget about the milk as well."

"....... I apologize, but even if this is an order from Kaichou, I will not do it. To actually order your subordinate to do your private matters while at an important meeting. Please be more respectful towards yourself."

"If you are to get them within five minutes, I'll bestow you the right for your brother to say to you, 'Akiko today is cute to the max'."

"Within five minutes!? Understood!"

With that said, Akiko immediately flew out of the students council room, like a dog.

Is that really okay, my younger sister...... Honestly speaking, your brother is rather worried about your future......

It will not do. I would have to lecture my sister when she returns.

"Right. With that, the thing in the way is gone, but......"

Kaichou slowly placed her legs on the table, and shot a glance at me.

"Himenokouji Akito. What are your thoughts after seeing your sister acting that way?"

"What else can I feel, other than to be really worried."

If she was to be controlled that easily, then it will be really tough for her in the future.

Well, if I am by her side, then I can still do something to make sure things won't become overly troublesome, but...... I can't be with her the whole day.

"That's right. I am worried about it as well. Not just me, but the Fuku-Kaichou and treasurer there, who are both showing a rather pissed off expressions - they shared the same thoughts as me as well."

With that said, she took a glance at the silent Nasuhara and Ginbe, and then,

"But. What we are worried about is not quite the same as what you are worried about."

"Haa?"

"You are a huge sis-con, right?"

"Eh?"

Wait what.

Though Nasuhara and Ginbe were like that, but why did Kaichou have that sort of misunderstanding as well.

"No, it's not like I have a sister-complex, you know? Well of course, I do treasure my younger sister, and love her very much. But, isn't that something rather natural, as her elder brother? I don't think there is anything inconceivable about it."

"Uhh, yeah. You are right. Ahh, this is a total mess. You are not wrong...... but."

Even though she had said that, it looked like Kaichou was implying something else.

"Nasuhara, Ginbe, come over here for a second."

She got her two subordinates to her side, and began to whisper among each other.

"Well...... I guess you both have had a rough idea on what I am about to say?"

"Mmm, yes. Things are really terrible."

"The level of the Himenokouji siblings is slightly out of my expectations. Though it's not like we had underestimated them......"

For some unknown reason, I was the only one who was excluded from that.

Even though I had said that, it was not like I'll do things like interrupting the girls in order to know what they were whispering about...... I'll just wait for them to finish their discussion.

"In any case, if both siblings are like that, then we can't really do anything. If this continues on, even I will have no choice but to surrender."

"Those two, if we are to leave them alone, they will unknowingly live in a world of themselves. Really, please spare me from that."

"Well, luckily they are blood-related siblings. Siblings getting together, resulting in the end of the competition...... such an ending is impossible - well, typically, that is the case."

"Even so, looking at them, you do not know when, where and how some sort of things will happen."

"If things turn out that way, then we will become a huge joke. To prevent the worst case scenario from happening, we will have to take countermeasures."

"For now, let's all be at truce, and form an alliance amongst us. But the question is, what should we do next?"

"Regarding that, I have a plan. Care to listen?"

...... Oh.

It looked like they are done with their discussion.

"We have made you wait for quite a while, Himenokouji Akito."

After the members of the secret chat had all returned back to their seats, Kaichou said.

"There is something that I wish to discuss with you. Can you listen to me?"

"Yeah. About what?"

"You, how do you view your sister's brother-complex?"

"Well...... I am happy that she admires me that much. That is even more so, considering the fact that we had not seen each other for six years. But, without needing me to say it, my sister is still just a sister. Aside from that, there isn't anything special."

"Well, what about the fact that your sister does not hide her brother complex, nor does she care about what the people around her think?"

"Ah- that."

That is my pain.

Separated from me for six years. Akiko was adopted as a daughter by a famous family, the Arisugawa. In order not to embarrass herself wherever she goes, she had undergone the respective trainings.

And thanks to that, her grades at St. Ririana Academy are excellent. She is popular, and it looks like she is the few top outstanding students as well. In actual fact, she is the secretary of the powerful students council as well.

Although her actions in our everyday lives are slightly... that, resulting in her nearly forgetting about it; as of the age of sixteen, Akiko had already obtained a certain thing called reputation.

But if her reputation is tarnished due to me starting to live together with her again, or due to me transferring to this school - even if it was scratched just a little, then it is something really terrible.

Not to mention the fact that right now, we had just forcefully moved out of the Arisugawa and Takanomiya households in order to live by ourselves. It's the period of time where we wish to avoid any bad impressions or incidents.

"Well, after looking at your expressions, I can roughly understand your thoughts."

Kaichou nodded her head slowly,

"You yourself do think that your sister's brother-complex is not something good, am I right?"

"Mmm, I guess."

"Actually, that is not just you. For the rest of the students council, we feel the same way as well."

"What do you mean?"

"Do I even have to say it? The blunder of a students council member will equate to the blunder of all of us. However, regarding your sister's brother complex. Even if I am to be polite, I can't say that it is something that will bring a positive influence to us. You understand?"

That's precisely how it is.

Actually, regarding that, I had noticed it slightly since the beginning.

Even if my sister was to say things like "I love Onii-chan the most" for the whole day, she had not been viewed strangely by the people around her. That is due to the fact that no one understood how bad her brother-complex was.

But ever since my transferring into this school, things had turned for the worse. Those things that had happened when my sister was with me, it looked like the news had already spread throughout the whole school. Frankly, I do not know if it is possible to maintain my sister's current face and reputation.

"We are all affected together, whether the situation is beneficial or harmful. Things will become troublesome if we were to ignore it. As such, we have no choice but to take some measures."

"Well...... that is right. So? Does Kaichou have something in mind?"

"Well, I do have something. But in order to execute that plan - Himenokouji Akito, your cooperation is a must. You will help out, right?"

Chapter 2.1: 9th April, AM7:00

The second day after the opening of school.

In the typical administrator office of the students hostel, a typical breakfast scene...

"Onii-chan, don't you think that it was way overboard!?"

My sister had set her breakfast aside. She had ignored it, and was fuming in anger.

"I had timed myself! There should be 5 seconds left, and that's plenty of time!"

"Stop waving your fist and bowl about. That's rude."

"That was what had happened, but Kaichou actually said 'Ah what a pity, you had just exceeded by three seconds'! She had robbed me of my rights using that unfair judgment! Can you allow such a barbaric act to happen!?"

"Even if you say that to me......"

Well, for me, it is considered to be a great help, since I didn't have to say things like 'Today, Akiko is really cute to the max' in front of everybody.

Yesterday, after listening to the nonsense that Nikaido-kaichou had said, my sister had rushed out of the room, and really did bought back the anpan and milk, as instructed.

Of course, as St. Ririana Academy does not have places that sell those things, it seems like my sister had sprinted all the way to a nearby convenience store to buy them. That convenience store is not that far away, but it is not of a distance where my sister can get to and fro within five minutes.

Ahhhhh really. My sister was wastefully and overly capable at things that are not really important.

"Up until today, I had always endured the tyranny of Kaichou. But this time round, I am really at my limit. I fervently object. No matter what, I will have to overturn the injustice of the century, regardless of any means."

"Ah just forget about it. You don't really have to be that persistent about it, right?"

"Please do not worry. I had already employed a lawyer."

"Cancel the services of that lawyer. Right now."

"Onii-chan!? Which side is Onii-chan on!? So you are not on my side, but Nikaido-kaichou's!?"

"Why has things turned into this? Also, you are at fault as well, you know? To dash out without clarifying the rules. Kaichou had actually timed you carefully. You had said that 'five minutes is way enough time', but ultimately that is just by your own feeling. You had not actually checked with a watch or something, right?"

"Forget it, we shall leave that aside."

Upon seeing that things were not going well, my sister changed the subject immediately.

"Ultimately, it is Onii-chan's fault, you know?"

"Why?"

"Isn't that so? If Onii-chan says to me things like 'Today, Akiko is really cute to the max' every single day, then I would not have fallen for that despicable trick of Kaichou, which resulted in me doing all that for nothing. Right?"

"You know what? About what you had said, everyone else calls it 'shifting of responsibilities'."

"No matter what, that's how it is. From today onward, please say to me 'Today, Akiko is really cute to the max' seriously and frequently, alright? Once every five minutes."

"That's way too frequent. Oi."

Whatever.

Things would get to nowhere if I was to follow the pace of my sister, so things shall end there.

It was about time for me to talk about that.

Naturally, it was about the thing that was proposed yesterday, in the students council room.

"I say, Akiko."

"Ah, you want more? Please eat more then. I am rather pleased with how the carrots had turned out."

"No, no. Not that. Today, after school......"

"Ah, there are things to be bought? If so, then a trip down to the convenience store will be necessary. The body wash that I am currently using is slightly unsuitable for my skin."

"No. It's not about buying things as well."

Facing my sister's interruptions, I couldn't help but gave a bitter smile,

"Today, I'll be going somewhere after school. I am sorry, but can Akiko go back home by yourself?"

"..........."

"Akiko?"

"..........."

"Oi? Akiko~? Are you listening?"

"........... Eh? Ah, yes. Of course, I am listening?"

"Anything wrong? Your smile is slightly stiff."

"Urm nothing. Please eat more. I am rather pleased with how the carrots had turned out."

"Mmm. Looks like you are fine."

Seems like the impact was so huge, she had traveled back in time.

"Today, I'll be going somewhere after school. I am sorry, but can Akiko go back home by yourself - that's what I had said."

"Alright...... Eh? Eh?"

Finally, my sister had comprehended what I had just said, and due to that, she had temporarily went into a state of panic. But then, she immediately gave an expression that says 'ahh, so that's how it is',

"You are joking right? Onii-chan is surprisingly naughty."

"Nope. That's not a joke."

"Eh? But if that is the case, then it will become like that right? Wouldn't it become the state where I cannot go home with Onii-chan?"

"Mhmm. Indeed, it will become like that."

"Ahaha. That sort of thing-. How can it be-"

"Ahaha, that's how it will be."

"Ahaha."

"Ahaha."

"Aha...... Ahaha......"

"Well, that's how it is. Don't go anywhere, and return home directly after......"

"I Ob———ject!"

My sister raised her voice and stood up, as though she wanted to interrupt my words.

"I request for an emergency family meeting!"

"Rejected."

"You say you have somewhere to go, but where exactly!?"

"Secret."

"Please bring me along!"

"No way, no way."

"Onii-chan......"

The corners of my sister's eyes began to gather tears,

"Onii-chan...... Onii-chan had turned into a delinquent! Uwaaaa~!"

"Who's the delinquent? It will be bad if others hear it."

"To actually leave your cute younger sister alone, what else can you be other than a delinquent!"

"Leaving you alone and whatever - isn't it just me wanting you to go home alone?"

"In any case! I will never agree to that!"

Well, I had expected that.

Or I should say, if I heard my sister say things like 'I understand, please be careful' and such, I would have to bring her to see a psychologist.

"I want to be together with Onii-chan at all times! Going home after school will be better too, if I am with Onii-chan! If Onii-chan is forceful to do as he pleases even if he knew that, then I have my own plans as well!"

"Wait, hold on. Calm down for a moment."

"Everything will be fine! The lawyer that I am hiring is extremely good!"

"You will have to cancel your appointment with that lawyer properly, alright?"

Well well, I gave a sigh.

"In any case, listen to me first."

"I will never listen to anything that the bad Onii-chan is about to say!"

"Akiko. This is a trial that I am giving to you."

"Huh......? Trial?"

"During these six years where you are separated from me, you had indeed followed my instructions of 'being a good girl'."

"Of course. In order to be prepared to meet Onii-chan at any moment, I had worked really hard."

"Mmm, that's right. I liked that most about you."

"R-Really!?"

"Yes. Really."

"P-Please say it again!"

"The you who had listened to me and grown up to be an outstanding child, I really like that the most."

"Ehehe...... I-It's not really that great."

My sister became embarrassed, and twisted her body about.

"B-But Onii-chan. If you love me that much, then we should be going home together-"

"But Akiko."

I interrupted Akiko's request,

"Being good at your studies, being adept at housework, and being a students council member...... I really think that the current you is a good girl. The most important though, is the condition of you listening to me obediently - that is the condition of being a 'good girl', don't you think so?"

"Uhhh. T-That......"

"You are an obedient girl that don't give me any worries. Ever since the beginning."

Closing my eyes, I reminisce about the days when we were still young, and I said emotionally.

"Ever since we became sensible enough, our father and mother were rarely at home. Generally, I had took care of just about everything in the house. Cleaning and washing, and etc..... Although I do not know why, I had been deeply trusted by our parents."

"Mmm. That really was it."

My sister spoke with a tone as though she was looking through an old photo album,

"Even though we are twins, compared to me, Onii-chan had been much more capable in everything. I had always been depending on Onii-chan."

"Well, we had our shortcomings as well. But Akiko, the reason we had held on and lived through it, was in no small part due to you. Because you were really obedient towards me. I felt that if you had no intention of listening to me, then we could not have lived through it. We were just two elementary school kids back then, and we were nearly living by ourselves."

"How could that be..... That was because, there was nothing I could do, other than to listen to you. Just for Onii-chan alone, I did not wish to add on to your worries, and so......"

"Akiko. You are a dependable child. I believed, that even if I am separated from you temporarily, if it is Akiko, you will still manage to do fine. That's what I believed, about how dependable you are. Your brother wishes to see it."

"Ughhhhhhhh~~~"

My sister stared at me in resentment, with the expression that says 'Onii-chan you are mean'.

Not long after, she gave what seemed to be a sigh of resignation,

"...... . Since Onii-chan had already put it like that, I'll not be me if I were to reject it. I'll just endure it for today. I'll endure, to let Onii-chan know, that I will be alright even if am alone."

"Mhmm. That is my younger sister."

...... That's how it was. I had finally managed to placate Akiko.

Once again, I was thankful for not telling her where I was about to go.

"In the next three days, you are to visit the house of each of the members." If my sister came to know about it, then even I will have no confidence of controlling her.

Chapter 2.2: 9th April, PM4:00

"Parents must allow their children to walk on their own, while children must learn to be separated from their parents. Similar to this, a younger sister must learn to live without her elder brother."

That's Nikaido-kaichou's plan, to put in simple terms.

"To conclude, the cause of all these matters, is the fact that you are together with your sister for the full twenty-four hours a day. That can't be helped if both of you are at home, but you guys are together in school as well right? Not only at the students council, but even during lesson breaks and lunch. Needless to say, you siblings are together when you are going back home as well. It's kind of lucky that both of you are not in the same class, but that doesn't really change things."

Kaichou's current analysis had no room for disagreement.

She was totally spot on. I am together with my sister for the whole day, from morning until night.

After we were reunited, we siblings have been living together as though we were of one body and soul. The only times when we weren't together are during things like going to the bathroom or showering.

"I can understand your feelings, since you both have reunited only after six years. However, regarding this subject, don't you want to try a little harder?"

As such.

The conversation had changed to whether I can try to reduce the amount of time that I spend with my sister.

After some discussions, the suggestion "while going back home, Akito shall visit the homes of the student council members" had been approved.

As compared to just simply reducing the time spent with my sister, this suggestion doubles as the chance for me to be closer with the students council members, which is great for me - though that is how it seems. It somehow felt like Kaichou's was hatching up some sort of plans, or rather, the fact that she had some other motives were a little too obvious.

Ultimately, instead of questioning the effectiveness of the plan, I should say that this should be considered an emergency measure - that was what I had thought.

Though I had said that, I don't really have a reason to object it strongly; plus Kaichou had said things like 'it's better than doing nothing' and 'I'll come up with a more solid plan during this period'. Not to mention, it was originally my intention to officially pay a visit to Ginbe's house as well.

If so, I should use this chance to visit the houses of the other students council members as well - as such, the plan had been approved.

Then.

Due to these reasons, I am standing outside my friend's house right now. However.

"........... What a wreck."

I had accidentally let out my overly honest thought.

The hostel which I am living at with my sister is not much better. But the place in which my friend from Kyoto is living at, had easily surpassed that of ours.

How many years had this thing been built?

A shabby two-story wooden apartment, with its roof slanted, and the place was full of holes. It will take a lot of effort to find a place that has no insect cavities. Forget about the winds, this place gives the feeling that it will collapse by a mere puff of air.

Ginbe...... I know you are tight on cash, but even so, this is just slightly overboard, isn't it?

"Hi. You are here, Akito."

I turned my head upon hearing that voice, and somehow, without me knowing, my friend was already standing at the entrance. All my attention had been focused onto this apartment, resulting in me not noticing that.

"...... Gin. You have gotten for yourself yet another rather impressive place."

"No no no Akito, it may not look like it, but this is actually a bargain. The exterior may just be as how it looks, but the frame of the house is surprisingly sturdy. It is slightly old, but the inside is not as bad as how the exterior looks. The most important thing is the rent suits me just fine. For a house that comes with a toilet/bathroom at such a price, you can't find another place."

"No, even so...... Of course, if you say so, then it must have been a bargain."

"Well, it's not good to be talking outside, so come on in."

***

I see, it was indeed as my friend had said.

Upon stepping past the entrance, instead of calling it a shabby apartment, it gives of a feel akin to that of an old temple.

The black floor that had been polished till bright.

Even though the sunlight there was not that great, there was not much dampness either. The air felt slightly cooling.

It is similar to our apartment, regarding that point. I should put it this way - it is shabby, but it is not dirty. I see, so she had found this apartment by luck. It must have been constructed by a really skillful artisan, who must have used lots of high quality wood.

"We are here. It's this room."

Walking up the creaking stairs, upon opening the first door, I saw a simple room that is roughly four tatami-size big.

A slightly old, round short table.

A similarly old Japanese-styled wardrobe.

Those are the only furniture in the room. Just like before, the room of my friend was extremely bare and empty.

"Your house is still the same, huh?"

"Well, simplicity is best. Take a seat. I had bought some tea beforehand, in preparation for your visit."

After listening to her request and sitting down on the cushion, Ginbe began to brew the tea rather skillfully.

For her, whose sole interest is reading, she somehow is really skilled at brewing tea.

"Here. Please drink it while it is hot."

"Oh, thanks. Here I go."

I sipped at the thickly-brewed tea. She never used high-quality tea leaves, but somehow, the tea which Ginbe brews are always delicious.

"How's it?"

"Mmmmm. It's really good."

"Is that so? That's great."

A huge smile.

A huge smile.

While watching me holding onto my tea-cup, Ginbe was smiling rather contently. That was quite rare of her, since it was normal for her to smile cynically.

"You're feeling really great huh."

"Of course. You had finally came here, after I had thought about it for so long."

"Ah-...... I was busy with all sorts of things, you see. Well, I am really sorry."

"Forget it. Hiding from me the fact that you are moving here, and not inviting me over after you had shifted - all these are things of the past. Compared to the past or the future, the present in which we are together like this is much more important. I'll not dwell much on your disloyalty."

"That really helps...... Ah, can I have another cup of tea?"

"Mm. As much as you like."

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi.

My precious friend.

I had met her not too long after the separation with my sister. It goes back to our elementary school days.

If I am not wrong, Ginbe hasn't changed much since the first time we met.

Back then, her honest way of speech was just like how it is now. Even her mocking smile, which had left a deep impression on me, was the same as before.

From her body size, it seems like she had grown rather slowly. One can have the impression that time around her had stopped, if they are not careful.

The only thing I can say for certain, regarding 'the point where she is different from when we first met'.

Right now, while she was sitting down, she was sitting with a feminine posture. Just that.

"That's right...... I had a huge shock when I first known of it."

"What are you talking about?"

"Oh, it's about the time when we first met. I was really shocked when I knew you are a girl."

"Ahh......"

Ginbe's expressions became gloomy,

"You do know that my family has all sorts of weird rules. The fact that I had to live a poor life, and also the fact that I was given a name like 'Ginbe Haruomi', which is way out of the modern era - plus I was raised as a boy when I was young."

"Mhmm, I have heard you mentioning that. But still, I was really shocked back then. I totally had no doubt that you were a boy."

"I wasn't deliberately trying to hide it from you. If you are unhappy about it, I apologize."

"No no, I am not. I just suddenly recalled on how shocked I was back then."

"Well...... thinking about it now, I had the feeling that the reason things are going wrong right now is the fact that I had left you with the wrong impression from the start. This is exactly like realizing I had buttoned up the shirt wrongly only right at the end, and the mistake happened at the very first button."

"Hmm? What are you saying?"

"Nothing, just some stuff about myself."

While saying that, she took a sip of tea, and ended the topic.

But this person.

She was in a good mood, but ever since just now, it was like she could not settle down.

Perhaps she was restless, but it felt like she was constantly looking around nervously, and then correcting the posture of her seiza.

"Ginbe."

"Mmm? W-What?"

"Are you meeting someone later?"

"Meeting someone? No, aside from your visit, I am meeting with no one else."

"Like you having work later, and is about to be late for it - there is nothing of that sort?"

"Right now, I am barred from earning my own cash. That's the rule of the Sawatari family. Akito do know about this, right?"

"Ah-...... perhaps you urgently need to visit the bathroom?"

"No way. You are really rude."

My friend pouted her lips,

"What are you trying to say? You had been asking all sorts of weird questions for a while."

"Ah- no. It's just that you are behaving a little strangely. Yeah...... it's as though you are really nervous."

I can guarantee on how oblivious my respected friend can be. To be truthful, I had seen plenty of those sort of scenes ever since we had been friends.

She is the sort of person who can talk as though she is giving a speech, even if she is at the Carnegie Hall that is packed with people. Her unique mocking smile seldom changes as well, as though it is normal for her to be teasing me all the time.

"That's why, I am slightly curious. It is normal for me to be thinking that you have something wrong, no?"

"..........."

As such, I had seriously asked her about it, but then.

Ginbe's huge eyes blinked, and then she gave a sigh.

"You really don't understand why, Akito?"

"Eh? Ah, mmm, I don't understand. Eh? Is it that strange? Typically speaking, people won't understand that, right?"

"Oh my......"

She shook her head weakly,

"Use your common sense and think...... No matter what, it's a girl that has invited a guy to her room, and she is currently alone with that guy...... No, I do know that you had never seen me as a woman...... But even so, I still have some expectation......"

"Hmm? What? I can't quite catch you."

"You irritating idiot. It doesn't matter if you did not hear that properly."

She twisted her head to the side with a "hmmph",

"It just felt awfully silly for me to be nervous about this. In the future, I will definitely not be worried due to Akito."

"Eh? Why? What's with your sudden anger?"

"Shut up, how irritating. There is a saying, 'playing the harp to the cow'. But it is a waste to play a single note to a stupid cow like you. You should just have an auditory hallucination about some sort of new and upcoming religion until you die."

For some strange reason, Ginbe was looking down on me.

Uh- Mmm.

There will be times when she is like that.

When she mutters to herself something that I could not hear, then became angry all of the sudden.

But forget it.

Upon thinking about the years of our friendship and the grace that I had gotten from her, this level of things is minor.

And, the me of today, was prepared with a so called ultimate attack.

"Ah- right, right. I had nearly forgotten."

It looked rather deliberate, but I clapped my hands,

"Ginbe, I have a present for you."

"Present?"

"Yup. This."

With that said, I took something from my bag and placed it on the table.

"!"

Upon seeing the small box with the handles, her eyes shone, but just for a moment.

Ginbe immediately stared at me,

"Akito. You are a really despicable person."

"Ahaha, don't say that."

There's cake inside the box. The thing which my good friend loves the most, having a sweet tooth.

"I had wanted to bring this over to your house during a visit for quite a while. It's true."

"Hmmph, really...... ah!?"

Upon opening the box with a snort, Ginbe's eyes shone once again.

"Uwa, this is Mont Blanc isn't it! You have remembered my favorite type?"

"Naturally."

Although I had only treated her to food occasionally, I did manage to remember her tastes properly. No matter how incompetent I am, we have still known each other for so long.

"You like it?"

"There is no one on this planet who hates Mont Blanc."

"That's the best. Savor it slowly."

"Hmph...... I do realize that this is your attempt to win me over. But to receive such a gift from you, I have no choice but to forgive you."

"That's a great help."

Although my friend's stare was still slightly sharp. I'll take the opportunity to change the topic.

"I say, Ginbe."

"Ye?"

"I did touch on it a little just now. How's your financial status right now? Can you still handle things after moving to here?"

"No, I am still a little short on money."

She closed the cover of the cake box, and shrugged,

"The rent of this apartment is almost the same to my previous one. Luckily, I was not asked for any deposit or any intermediary fees. So the only cash I had spent are the cost of moving the furniture over. As you can see, I had only the bare minimum for furniture, so that is not too costly as well. But......"

"Well, there are a lot of other places to spend on. I know that much, since I had just moved as well."

"Mhmm. Transferring schools is especially costly. A huge amount of my savings are spent on the uniforms and the textbooks. For someone as poor as me, that is rather painful."

I talked about that a while ago.

Ginbe's family has been merchants for generations, and the Sawatari family has a huge influence behind the scenes in the financial world.

Their policy on education are rather unique. The children of the Sawatari family, under the context of 'experiencing personally the value of money', are made to live a life of poverty since young.

This rule has been implemented rather thoroughly - if they are to overspend, there will not be any extra cash given to them. Not only that, they are banned from working as well. If they had finished spending all their money, then they will really be spending the rest of their days without a single cent on their body.

It is said that all of this is for them to 'learn how to manage their cash under the constraints'. If you ask me about how effective it is, then I am not too sure.

Even though I am not too sure, the Sawatari family had rather stubbornly held on to this tradition, and thus Ginbe had to follow it as well.

"Well, so."

Reviving her mocking smile, Ginbe said.

"My financial situation is as tough as usual. Currently, I had barely managed to ensure that I have food to eat. If I wish to live healthily, then I cannot spend too much."

"I guess-"

"What about you, Akito?"

"It's roughly the same for me as well. It's still a little tight. My income is not really stable, so I can only bring Mont Blanc over as my apology. I had originally wanted to buy a whole cake for you."

"What about your work?"

"Ah-......"

I stuttered upon being asked about that.

"Well...... It's going smoothly- nothing of that sort, sadly. I am slightly suspicious if I had managed to satisfy my employer."

"Can you still carry on?"

"I guess so. It's not to the stage where I am about to get fired, so I can still continue my work. Honestly speaking, the income is currently...... yeah, it doesn't look like my income will increase at the moment. I have to have some sort of savings, upon considering about the future. Subtracting that, there is not much left."

"Fuu."

Ginbe crossed her arms,

"Needless to say, I was the one who introduced you to the place to look for work.. Luckily, I do have some sort of contacts."

"That was really all thanks to you."

"Even so, I am just there to link you to 'someone who can find you work'. I have no idea what sort of work you are doing in order to get your daily allowance. And it seems like you have no intention of telling me."

"Ahaha...... Well it is like, I am obliged to keep it a secret - if you can think of it that way, then it will be a huge help for me."

"It's fine. I am from a business family, so I am not intending to press on any further. With me providing you the opportunity to start your work, I am just interested in how well you are doing."

Mhmm.

Regarding that, should I be saying that indeed, that is how it is. As part of the Sawatari family, Ginbe is awfully strict regarding the matter of trust.

"If you had done anything that makes me lose face, you understand, right?"

Right now, in this atmosphere, I could almost hear her implying that.

Whatever. That's really how it is.

Even so, no matter what had happened, Ginbe had always been very tolerant towards me. I really could not hold up my head in front of her.

"It's okay, don't worry, Ginbe. I am clear about that sort of thing as well. Frankly, I cannot be considered excellent...... but even then, I had probably produce results that my employer is satisfied with. There is not a single chance for anyone to be complaining to you. Even if there is, I'll take the responsibility for it."

"...... Well, it's good you understand. Also, it's not like I don't trust Akito or anything. Just that on my personal stand. I'll have to give you some sort of preventive injection."

"Mmm. I understand."

Honestly, I am rather distressed about my job currently.

I had totally no time to be enjoying myself with my friend like this...... but since this has involved things related to my sister. The troubles that I had given to my employer are within acceptable limits.

"I should be saying. Are you fine over at your side? Ginbe."

"Referring to?"

"Your life. It's rather tough, right?"

"I can still manage. You don't have to worry."

"That won't do. Ultimately, your reason for moving over to here is because of me. As such, I am the culprit for worsening your financial situation."

"I did nothing like that. Don't put it to heart, really."

"How can I do that? I owe Ginbe a lot, and I had never repay my debts."

"It's just me doing my own things. They are not matters for Akito to worry over...... It's purely me having my own motives."

"Eh? What did you say?"

"Nothing. Why do you always have to interrupt me when I am mumbling to myself?"

"Even if you say that, it can't be helped, since I did hear something."

"Forget it. In any case."

Ginbe said rather forcefully,

"I am not at the stage where you have to worry about me. Compared to that, I had really never thought of you being worried. Even if I am like this, I still think that my ability to live by myself is much higher than that of yours. And in actual fact, I had lived by myself for quite a while."

"Ahh, well. You can put it like that."

"It's okay. When I have no other options, I'll not hold back in seeking Akito's help - or should I say, that it will be like that in the near future."

"That's how it is huh. Mmm, that's fine."

"I'll not allow you to say no then? You had owed me quite a lot, and you have treated me as a 'good friend', right? I'll be waiting for it."

"Ah, mmm, of course...... Also, why does it sound really awkward when you are saying the words 'good friend'?"

"I don't hate it. Just stop asking."

"Is that so? It totally doesn't sound like that."

"Ah how irritating. I said no, so that's fine, right? Put that aside for a moment, let's share this cake together."

"Can I? I had bought that for you to eat by yourself."

"Indeed, I do like cakes, but that is only when I have someone to share the taste with. Do you want to make the time where I should be enjoying cake into something tasteless and uninteresting? Accompany me in eating it."

***

With that.

Ginbe and me had eaten the cake leisurely, while talking about random things and the past harmoniously.

I had slightly repaid her kindness, and it seemed like there will be more opportunity for me to do so in the future.

I had spent a rather satisfying day - I guess I can say that? Yeah.

Chapter 3.1: 10th April, AM7:00

Ringggggg..... rinngggggg......

- The second day.

There was a phone call early in the morning.

It's not the handphone, but the phone in the hostel.

"Onii-chan-! Sorry, can you pick up the phone-!?"

From the kitchen came the sound of my sister.

Well, she was preparing breakfast, and probably had her hands full. Though it should be me who is picking up the phone.

"Sorry Akiko. Can you pick it up?"

"Eh? But I am currently making the egg rolls-"

"I'll take responsibility if the dish goes bad. Please."

"Ah, alright. Since Onii-chan put it that way."

"Also, you are to tell the caller that I am not at home right now. While doing so, say that you have no idea where I am. That's all."

"U-Understood."

My apron-mode sister blanked for a moment, then rushed to the phone.

I watched on while holding my breath.

...... Why did I have to do things that way?

Do I even need to say it? That was because I had an idea who the caller is.

"Yes, hello. This is the Himenokouji residence. ......Ah, mmm, no no no, that's nothing...... Ah, mmm, I am sorry, but he is not at home right now......"

As for my work, I had asked them to keep the details as a secret from my sister. Nothing should be leaked, even if my sister is currently taking the phone-call.

"Right...... right. I understand. Alright, I'll convey that to him. ......No, it's nothing. Well then, goodbye."

Kacha, came the sound of her hanging up the phone.

It looked like the phone-call was over.

"Thank you Akiko. Ah, you really helped me out back there."

"Onii-chan."

"Ah. You had presented yourself so well even while you are at the phone. You had really grown up to be a dependable sister. As your elder brother, I am really proud."

"You are wasting your efforts if you are trying to divert the topic, you know?"

.... Uh oh.

So it was too difficult to just to casually bring it over?

"We'll have our breakfast later. Onii-chan, please take a seat over there."

"Yeah yeah yeah."

As instructed, I sat down at the short-legged table.

My sister sat directly opposite of me,

"It's from a woman."

"Akiko, you had misunderstood. That person is not-"

"It's a young woman with a sweet lovely voice."

"That is the truth, but she is just someone whom I know from my job. My relationship with her is nothing similar to what you are imagining."

"And she was close to crying."

"Ah-...... mmm. There are many reasons for that."

"And she said 'Akito-kun is so mean~'."

Uh oh.

She had accurately pointed out that sort of misleading words......

"Do you have anything to say in your defense?"

"No. I don't need to defend myself-"

"Onii-chan! Please be truthful!"

"No, that is why I had said, there is nothing for me to be truthful about. There really is nothing between us."

"It's still not too late!?"

"Not too late for what?"

"Onii-chan, you are saying that it is fine for my hands to be stained with blood?"

"Oi. Even if that is a joke, you can't just say that sort of thing casually."

I shook my head. Oh boy.

"I understand. When it is time, I'll introduce the caller to you. That should be able to prove my innocence. That's fine, right?"

"Uhhhhh...... This is not a lie, right?"

"No. I promise."

"Uhhhhhhhhhhhhh......"

"Have I broken any of my promises to you?"

"Uhhhhhh..... Indeed, you have not, but......"

Well, I had no choice.

If possible, I want to avoid bringing work-related matters back home, but that is still better than me being misunderstood out of nothing. As the person in question is my sister, there is a possibility that she'll not let it go due to the misunderstandings.

"I understand. I believe in Onii-chan."

"Mhmm. Let's end it at that."

"Upon thinking deeper, it is impossible for Onii-chan to ignore me, his wife, to look for another lover outside. Ehehe...... Akiko is really silly."

"I say, I think I had said the same thing back then. Occasionally, there are some unnatural terms that appears in your sentences."

Forget it.

It looked like she had regained her mood, so I shall not harp on that.

Compared to those things, I should say this while she's feeling happy.

"Ah- I say, Akiko."

"Ah, I am sorry, Onii-chan. The egg roll had failed, so can I replace that with a fried egg?"

"No, not that. About the agreement for today."

"Ah, if you are talking about the body wash, that is no longer of a problem. I had bought a slightly more expensive one that is not harsh on the skin. This is really good for your skin you know-"

"No, it's not about that either. Today, I'll be going somewhere after school. I am sorry, but can you go home by yourself for today as well?"

"..........."

"Akiko?"

"..........."

"Oi~. Akiko~. Are you there?"

"........... Eh? Ah, yes. Of course. I am listening?"

"You alright? Your smile is slightly stiff."

"Mmm, it's fine. ......Onii-chan-! I am sorry-, but can you pick up the phone-!?"

No no no.

She had rewinded way too far back.

"There is another place where I want to go to today. That's why, I have no choice but to let Akiko be by herself after school."

"...... Ahaha-. Ohii-chan, you are really~ funny. That is the funniest joke that I had heard from you until now. It would have been better to keep this gag for the future. This is not the finals of M-1, you know?" [TLNote: wiki M-1 Grand Prix]

"No no no. That is not a joke. And I am not a comedian either."

"Eh? But if that is the case, wouldn't it be that? Wouldn't it turn out to be like Armageddon, where I cannot go home with Onii-chan for two days straight?"

"Let's put aside the talk about whether the world will end due to me not going home with you, but it is true that I will not go home with you for two consecutive days. Well, that's how it is, so don't go to any weird place, and go home straight after school, and be a good girl-"

"God is already dead————!" My sister started Armageddon.

"*It's guilty!* It's a foul! Onii-chan's actions had clearly breached the Laws of Himenokouji!"

"I don't remember that such a law had ever existed."

"I can still forgive you if you are only unfaithful for once, but twice!? And consecutively!? There is a saying that the Buddha can endure it thrice, but your sister can only do it once!"

"Oi, stop slamming on the table. It will break."

"There is no god! It's pitch black! As a husband, Onii-chan had repeatedly been unfaithful, and that had deeply hurt me, who is your wife!"

...... So she had slipped in those suspicious terms yet again.

Oh well.

I had expected this sort of reaction from her. And I had came up with a plan to deal with it.

"No, I cannot forgive you! I can never agree to it! This day, today, I'll be going home together with Onii-chan!"

"I say, Akiko."

"I won't listen! No matter what Onii-chan say, I'll never yield! I'll hold on with all my might, until Onii-chan gives in!"

"So you won't go on a date with me?"

"Ultimately, Onii-chan, your etiquette towards your sister is rather lacking! The morning kiss when we woke up; the farewell kiss when we leave the house; the welcoming kiss upon returning home; and the goodnight kiss before going to sleep! At the very least, you have to do all these in order to be an awesome- Huh!? What did you just say!?"

"I said, so you won't go on a date with me?"

"D-D-Date, is it that!? Is it D.A.T.E!?

"Mhmm. You are right."

"Could it be that!? A gimmick where you go, 'Even though I had said that it is a date, but I am referring to that on the calendar. Ahaha, you have fallen for it'!?"

"I won't do that sort of thing."

"Then, then is it true!? Will you really go on a date with me!?"

"Mhmm. Well, since we don't really have much money, the date will be things like taking a stroll around the park. That's the best I can do."

"A stroll! With Onii-chan!?"

"You don't like it?"

"No, that's great! When will we be going!? Right now!?"

"Right now, we should be having our breakfast and be on our way to school. It will be when I return back home. After I had settled my stuff after school."

"Uhhh....... Which means to say......"

"Mhmm. If you listen to me and be a good girl. As a reward, I'll go on a date with you. You can do it, right?"

"Uhhhhhh....... B-But if that is the case, then I'll not be able to go home with Onii-chan for today as well...... If I lack Onii-chan's nutrients for that long, I think I'll probably die......"

"Well, I do believe in Akiko. Just like how you believed in me."

"Uhhhhhhhhhhh......"

My sister stared at me in resentment, with the expression that says "Onii-chan you are mean'.

Not long after, she gave what seemed to be a sigh of resignation,

"...... Understood. Right after yesterday's painful ordeal, I'll endure for today as well. Since Onii-chan had put it that way, I have no choice but to agree."

"Mhmm. That is my younger sister."

***

That's how it roughly was.

I had finally managed to convince my sister for today as well.

No, now is not the time to be talking about going on a date and stuff. It's about time for me to end my task, since she looked like she was about to cry...... No, that can't be helped.

To me, Akiko is my dear little sister.

Right now, my top priority is to deal with my sister's brother-complex.

In order to reduce the time spent with my sister in order to avoid the misunderstandings and unnecessary troubles from others, having a date once or twice should be considered to be a necessary expenditure. Mmm, that can't be helped.

......

....

....

Mhmm.

It felt slightly wrong. Forget it, it's probably just my imagination.

I could already predict that I'll be encountering more troubles at the place that I am about to visit, compared to yesterday. Let's not worry about the unnecessary things - regain my composure, and focus. Yup

Chapter 3.2: 10th April, PM4:00

It is dubbed as the most expensive residential area of Yamanote, occupying the most expensive land.

"Those with total assets of less than 10 digits are not to step in here."

That board was erected there - that's not really the case. But if a commoner is to step into the place, then he must have a huge amount of courage, or rather, he must be really oblivious - that is the sort of place it is. The place where Nasuhara Anastasia's house is built on.

"...... How should I say it? This is really impressive."

Looking at the towering building in front of me, I subconsciously said that.

It's not overly glamorous.

Neither does it look bulky.

It just exudes a sense of classiness, that's the sort of feeling that the broad, modern two-story building gives.

The design is not overly trendy to the point where it sticks out, but it does keep up with the current trend, that's how it feels like.

Uh- mmm, it's really beautiful.

They must have hired a rather capable designer to design this house.

Honestly speaking, I am slightly intimidated.

To a person like me, even though I had lived with the rich, deep inside I am still your poor average Joe. Typically, I will be hesitant to even step into such a place. Don't even mention intruding on the hospitality here, since I would be rejecting the idea furiously.

That was bad.

At the very least, I should have brought better snacks here. It seemed like I did not think through it thoroughly, and had just brought the same cake which I did to Ginbe's house yesterday.

But then, my wallet was pretty dry, so it's not like I can afford anything that's much better-

"How long are you going to stand around there?"

Just then.

I heard a familiar voice. It came from the speakers next to the door.

"Come on in. You looked like a suspicious person if you are standing at that place with your mouth wide open."

"Ah- good day, Nasuhara. Ahh, it's a really spectacular house."

"The guards of that spectacular house are about to rush towards you rather fiercely. If you do not wished to be surrounded by burly guards who will interrogate you using inhumane means, then please step into the door right now."

"Ahhh, mmm. I do know that. It's just that - how do I put it - there seems to be no indication that the door is opening."

"Ara I am really sorry. That's true, you are right. You can't get in if the door is not opened."

"Mhmm. Sorry, but I'll have to trouble you."

"Ara. Speaking of that, how do I operate this? I don't really know, since it's something that I don't really use that often."

"Oi oi. This is your house right? Please remember those sort of things."

"Ara, what you said is slightly overboard. The way you put it, it's as though you are implying that I do not know a single thing about my house despite me living in here, and that I am someone who have no life skills and can't survive in the society - that's how it sounds like to me."

"No no no, that's not it. I totally do not mean it that way. Please don't get into some sort of weird misunderstanding."

"Well then, can you express your true feelings via relevant actions and words for me to see?"

"What do you mean by relevant actions and words?"

"Specifically speaking, I am requesting that you are to apologize and compensate."

"I understand. I am sorry, and I apologize. I had no intention to slander you. That's how it is, so it will be great if you can forgive me. I don't have enough money to compensate you, so please let me off the hook regarding that."

"Is that so. I have understood your intentions. Since you had lowered yourself that much, I can't possibly do anything, even if I had threatened to do so. Even so, please be careful about your words in the future. If you are at another place, what you had just said to me can actually lead to a lawsuit."

"Though I don't really think I said things that will lead to that...... Forget it, lets put that aside. Can you please hurry up and open the door for me?"

"What an impatient man. Impatient guys are not popular among girls, you know."

"I don't know what you are talking about, but in any case, please open up the door, quickly."

"Didn't you hear what I had just said? I did say not long ago, that I do not know how to open it, right?"

"That is why, I had said that you should remember that sort- ah- no, forget it. Open the door, really. Right now."

"I understand. How about this: I shall grab the guidebook, which is about as thick as a textbook, and read it from the beginning. I shall start from that. Please don't worry - as long as I can understand it, things like opening the door is just a piece of cake for me."

"No, you don't have to spend your time on that sort of time-wasting thing. You just have to ask someone who knows how to operate it to open the door, right? Like the maids at your house or something."

"Why are you that impatient? Impatient guys are not popular among girls, you know."

"No, I say, you should know it since you are watching the circuit TV, right? The burly guards which you had mentioned are coming towards me with a rather hostile look on their face. It is precisely due to that reason, that I am being impatient."

"Oh that's right. I did give them the instruction to deal with the suspicious person that appeared in front of the door within a minute."

"So you are actually the root of all evil!?"

...... After that, I had finally managed to enter into the premises of the Nasuhara house safely.

Oh boy. It took me that much effort just to step into the house. I wonder what will actually happen after this.

***

I was brought to Nasuhara's room, which was surprisingly girly. [TLNote: Original text is fantasy-like room, or something like that. For English, girly fits the closest in this context. I'll be using the term girly for the rest of this chapter.]

No. The word 'surprisingly' was too conservative.

At such a time, I should not be using any other strange words to describe it. I should change that to, 'it had reached the maximum state of fantasy, and it could not go any further'.

With a light brown color as the backdrop, coupled with a flowery wallpaper and wooden flooring.

Tall ceilings with windows that provided good lighting.

The room was meticulously decorated with lots of stuffed animals and other characters.

On the furniture, like the bed or the curtains, it was full of lace and hem.

They are all light pink in color as well.

Of course, all of this did not make it feels as though she had poor taste. Rather, it is precisely because Nasuhara had great tastes in things like these, that she can blend classiness and cuteness together nicely.

The impression one gets from this room is totally different from the usual emotionless expressions that she gives - that's the sort of room it is.

"Are you surprised?"

Just then.

Nasuhara asked me that question when I was still staring around the room, while being overwhelmed by how girly that room is.

" 'She is already at the second year of high school, and yet she still decorates her room with dolls and whatsoever. She must either be a pervert who is too deeply engrossed with girly things, or she is someone who is about to be a mental patient - it has got to be one of these two' - that is what you are thinking of right now, right?"

"No no no. Nothing of that sort."

"Really? Ever since just now, I had been hearing words that seemed to be stuck in your throat - 'I'll get infected by her as well if I am to continue staying at the room of a girl who has something wrong with her head. I better leave as quick as I can'. They kept ringing around my ears."

"Urm. That is just your imagination."

"How very suspicious. The way you look at me, it is obviously the type where you are looking at someone really pitiful. It's pointless to try to hide it, because I know that very well."

Forget it.

That was not her first time where she kept harping on things.

I laughed heartily,

"Indeed, I was really surprised when I first entered into a room which looked like it came from the theme park. However, I'll not look at you differently. Regardless of the dolls or the girly state of your room, both are fine. I don't hate it, you know?"

"Who knows? Can you still remain that calm, after knowing that I had named each and every doll of mine, and I talk to them every night before I sleep?"

"Ah-...... Hmmm. Indeed, that is just slightly too...... no, it's fine. Isn't that great, the girly sort of feeling? Even if you had grown up into an adult, I don't think it is necessary for you to discard the purity you had when you are a child."

"When I am mentally unstable, I'll stab a knife into the stomach of the doll, and pull out the cotton inside bit by bit, while chanting curses. You are still fine even when you knew all this?"

"Ugh...... That is rather bad...... No I say, have you really done that before?"

"Or if the young and robust me sticks my boiling hot body onto the doll, and use it to pleasure myself every night - how about that?"

"Wait! That feels really dangerous! Stop talking about it!"

"Putting it in your everyday terms, it means that I love to use my dolls to mas******* every night."

"No, that is why, there is no need for that sort of explanation! And also, I had said that I strongly oppose girls saying that sort of thing, right!?"

"I should be the one who said it countless times. No matter what, where and when, I just want to harass you. I had actually said it till I am tired of it, and yet that bird-brain of yours can't even remember simple things such as these? Even if your intelligence is like that of an insect, it is still rather exaggerated, no?"

"Whoa, I was actually the one who was inexplicably attacked by you, who had fallen into rage due to your embarrassment!?"

"If the same thing happens again next time, I'll make you buy lingerie for me at the females-clothing section. And you'll have to puff your chest proudly and say, 'This is neither for my elder sister nor for my younger sister. It is actually for my own personal use'."

"And you had brought out your favorite gag rather crisply!"

This won't do.

I had been led by her pace, without me knowing.

As Nasuhara control the pace of our conversation perfectly, I had allowed her to gain control without me knowing. However, should I say that I played along too easily, or do I allow myself to be led by others too easily. No matter what, I have to think about it more carefully.

"Just joking."

Nasuhara said that, while maintaining the same expression of hers.

"Everything I had said just now was a joke. They are all lies."

"Eh? Really?"

"Yes, that's right. it's just a simple exchange of pleasantries, so please don't mind it."

"Ah, is that so...... ah, that's fine then."

"I may not look like it, but I am someone with status after all. I'll not talk about my night life openly and truthfully in front of others."

"Ahh, mmm. If it is all a joke, it's fine. It's fine...... But even then, your jokes are rather hard to comprehend."

"Incidentally, this room itself is part of the joke."

"That is really hard to understand!"

I couldn't really have thought of that.

"What do you mean!? What do you mean by this room being part of the joke!?"

"Ever since it was decided that you are to come here today, I had prepared this room in a hurry. My actual room is somewhere else."

Should I say that it was hard to understand or what - that is just too random.

No matter what, that takes too much effort. That means that she had prepared the room specially to fool me.

"Nasuhara."

"Yes?"

"Could it be, that you are an idiot beyond my imagination?"

"How rude of you. I had said it countless times, that no matter when, I will want to harass you, no matter how hard it is."

"No, even so-"

"Just like how the Bible is to Christians, and the Quran is to Muslims - that, to me, is the absolute commandment. Harassing you no matter when, is my one and only objective in life, and at the same time, it is the reason for my birth into this world."

"It just feels like the level of exaggeration had just raised by another level......"

"Going back on topic, I was thinking, don't you think that fantasy and mental illness sound really similar? Both the way of writing, and the meaning." [TLNote: メルヘン vs メンヘル, which is Märchen and mental respectively]

"Alright, such topics. *Stop*."

Well, while she was getting really excited for some unknown reason.

The silly conversation shall end here. And the contents of our conversation was getting rather unstable.

"I say, shouldn't it be about time that we take a seat? Ever since just now, we had been standing in this room."

"You are right. Well then, let us move to the living room."

"No, isn't this room fine?"

At this point of time, what's the use of moving to another room? As such, I sat next to the table.

"Hmm? What's wrong, Nasuhara? Take a seat too."

"...... You are right."

With that, Nasuhara sat down opposite of me.

I don't know if it was just my imagination, but she seemed slightly unhappy. Why? Was it because I had taken a seat without her consent?

Oh well, whatever.

"I say, are your parents at home? If possible, I wish to greet them."

"My parents are neither unemployed or NEETs, so they are probably working somewhere in this world. Also, they seldom come back to this house."

"Do you have siblings then?"

"I am the only child."

"Mmm, is that so. That can't be helped then."

"Incidentally, we are the only people who are in this house right now. I had sent the maids out to buy some things, and I had instructed the guards not to enter as well."

"Heh, is that so."

"Ku. I did not miss the brief instance when there was a beastly flash of light that came from your eyes. You had revealed your true self upon knowing that we are alone, in this huge empty house."

"Urm. That is just your imagination."

" 'Kukuku, there will be no one coming even if you scream at the top of your voice. Just give up and listen to me.' I had been hearing words that seemed to be stuck in your throat - they were ringing around my ears for a while now."

"Urm. That is just your auditory hallucination."

There has to be a limit to your slandering.

Forget it. It's not like she had only been bad-mouthing people without proof for a day or two. I'll just set that aside.

"But that's how it is huh, how disappointing. It's rare for me to come here, so I want to greet them loudly, at the very least."

"There is no need for that."

"No no no. Things of such levels are to be expected, since it is basic etiquette."

"No. That is not necessary."

...... Huh?

Is it my imagination? Although her expressions had remained the same, it felt like she had became slightly angry. Did I mentioned something that made her feel unhappy?

"Nasuhara."

"Yes?"

"Pardon me for being nosy. Could it be, that you are not on good terms with your parents?"

"Yes, that is how it is."

She nodded her head rather straightforwardly.

"Though I said that, I'll just say this so as not to tarnish their reputation. It's not like they had treated me badly - it is nothing of that sort. But, I can't say that they are your model parents, even if I am to be courteous about it."

"Well then, why are you on bad terms with them?"

"Because I am at my rebellious phase."

...... Ah-.

I see.

"You must be surprised. That I am at my rebellious phase right now."

"Not at all? I should say that I can totally accept that."

"...... It's not like I want it."

Surprisingly, she made a rare expression that could even be considered as one - Nasuhara pouted to show her unhappiness.

That was slightly...... no. It was quite cute.

"I say, which part of you is unwilling?"

Just by the term 'rebellious phase' alone, it's like I had understood everything. Like how Aristotle screams "I get it!". Isn't that answer as clear cut and wonderful as $E=mc^2$? [TLNote: the raw use Aristotle so it's not a translation mistake]

"Grabbing hold onto the mistake in others' speech and harassing them. I think Nasuhara's action is a rather typical symptom of someone in her rebellious stage."

"I don't act like that to everyone."

"Really?"

"That's how it is."

"Then, do you only act like that towards me?"

"Yes, that's right."

"Oi oi, that is rather terrible. Why do you only act like that towards me?"

"...... You don't know why?"

"How would I know? I had just met you not too long ago. Did I do something to you?"

"..........."

A small sigh.

Lightly, and it was really light. Nasuhara gave a sigh.

"You are a virgin, right?"

"W-Why are you talking about that now?"

"Up till today, you had not went out with any girls yet, right?"

"That is not wrong...... but why are you bringing that up?"

"It's nothing."

With a "fu", Nasuhara gave another sigh.

It's really rare, but there was a lot of changes to Nasuhara's expressions today.

"...... I had actually confessed a few days ago, and it was something that I had done with great determination. I had actually gone to this stage, and yet I did not managed to convey my feelings to this guy - is that how it is? Even so, I can't really bring myself to say the same thing for another time...... Really, this blockhead is beyond my imagination......"

"Eh, what? I didn't quite catch that."

"I am just mumbling to myself. Please do not put it to heart."

"Oh, mmm. Since you had said that, I'll just let it be."

"That's great."

"I say, ever since a while ago, I had been quite curious about it."

"About what?"

I looked at the knees of Nasuhara.

Since a while ago, more specifically back when we were talking about her rebellious phase, sat a stuffed teddy bear.

Nasuhara had been playing around with its ears, with its hands, then with its legs. And she had been repeating these actions.

"............ Ah."

Following the direction of my gaze, Nasuhara looked downwards, and gave a gasp when she saw her hands.

She froze temporarily.

A few seconds later, she placed the teddy bear by her side in a flurry,

"That was just a bad example."

That was what she said.

....

What bad example - but I'll not tsukkomi on that yet.

"I say, Nasuhara."

"Yes?"

"Could it be, that you like dolls?"

"Nothing of that sort."

"Your habit of playing with dolls subconsciously - doesn't it prove just that?"

"How can that be? How can there be such things?"

"Really?"

"Yes, really."

"Ah- come to think of it, you had said that this room was specially decorated in a fantasy theme upon knowing that I'll visit you, right? And that your room is somewhere else."

"Yes, that's how it is."

"Well, since this is a rare occasion, can you let me take a look at that room?"

"To actually say that you want to take a look at a girl's boudoir, what a pervert."

...... Hmm.

For an answer that came from her, it felt as though it wasn't sharp enough.

"Nasuhara."

"Yes?"

"Indeed, this is actually your room-"

"What are you talking about?"

I was denied.

It felt like she had totally anticipated my words, and had interrupted me before I could finish my sentence.

Hmm. Looks like it was a total bingo?

"Really~, how surprising~. To think that Nasuhara loves fantasy themes, and dolls-"

"That's not it."

"It's nothing bad, to like dolls. Why are you denying it?"

"To like dolls at my age, it hurts my dignity...... Of course, this has nothing to do with me, since I like neither dolls nor fantasy themes."

"So there are no dolls that you particularly like?"

"There are no dolls that I particularly like."

"I say, that teddy bear is really cute. Can you give it to me?"

"He cannot be considered to be a close friend of mine, but I had no intention of letting it go either. Please pick another one."

"Really, really. Mmm, that's how it is huh."

I couldn't help but grin.

So that's how it is.

I was just slightly shocked, that Nasuhara had such a side to her.

Her mysterious aura and her overwhelming beauty, and she was revered in school - but precisely because of all this, it felt like I had knew something to my favor.

Incidentally, since I had always been teased by her, for me to be in a situation where our roles are reversed, I felt a slight sense of superiority.

"I say, Nasuhara. If you do not wish for others to see your room filled with dolls, then right from the beginning, you should brought me to the living room or something."

"I had said that this is not my room."

"Well then, it is that? You had dug your own grave by saying too much? You had originally not intended to let me know that this is your room, right? To be betrayed by your own intelligence, that's how it is?"

"I don't understand what you are talking about."

"See, that reply was rather weak, coming from you. If it was from the typical you, it would have been a much sharper answer, right? You would have used all your means to say terrible things to me, right?"

"Nothing of that sort. It's just that I am not in good condition today."

"You see, it was quite obvious from that answer of yours. If you had found even the smallest chance to strike, you would have struck back with all your might, if it is the typical Nasuhara."

"I, did not......."

"Ahh, don't worry. I won't say it to any of the students council members. This will be a secret that is just between you and me. Ah- Even so, I am really surprised. Nasuhara actually has this sort of interest. You are so hard to get along with - if only you have shown that sort of easy-to-get-along feeling more, then it would have been great."

"..........."

Nasuhara was becoming more and more silent.

Ugh, that was bad.

I was getting too carried away, and had teased too far?

"How humiliating."

Finally, while still being expressionless, she laughed and muttered to herself,

"It had been the first time since I was born, that I had tasted such humiliation. Regarding this humiliation, I swear in my heart, that I'll take revenge on it."

"No no no, there's no humiliation or anything. That's too exaggerated. Also, this is not something that requires you to take revenge upon, right?"

"It is useless for you to be regretting now."

"I say, isn't it your fault in the first place? To reveal your interests to me."

"It had been the first time since I was born, that I had tasted such humiliation. Regarding this humiliation, I swear in my heart, that I'll take revenge on it - that's how it is. I am saying this twice, because it is important."

Ugh- mmm.

She had to put it like that?

Even then, for her to say it expressionlessly & with a flat tone - somehow, I felt an overwhelming pressure from it.

"And then, for me who had always acted swiftly - I thus declare, that I shall start taking my revenge right now."

With that said, Nasuhara stood up slowly.

...... Ugh.

Isn't this developing towards a rather strange direction?

I was still sitting down, and was trying not to show my nervousness. I raised my danger-awareness by several levels.

I may not look like it, but I had received lessons on how to be a young master, and thus I do have some sort of knowledge on self defense and stuff. Even if Nasuhara was to use force on me, I would not be in the state where I could not defend myself at all, but...... my self-defense techniques are still ultimately at the level where I just had 'some sort of knowledge' to it.

The initiative had already been taken away.

While Nasuhara made her declaration to take revenge, she did not give out anything similar to a murderous aura. But for her to stand up like that - what was she intending to do?

I am someone who belonged to the retaliatory type, so I'll wait to see what sort of action she would take, but-

"Fu. I say, it's rather hot today."

With her usual emotionless expression, and for some unknown reason, Nasuhara said that line as though she was deliberately saying it.

"It's so hot, that it feels like I am about to perspire."

"...... Is that so? We are only at the month of April, you know? Even global warming should not affect the temperatures that much."

"There is no choice. I'll open the windows."

Ignoring my words, Nasuhara walked towards the windows.

The windows of this room are facing south, while she was sitting at the north side of the room. Which means to say, that if Nasuhara wants to open the windows, she will have to pass by me.

I say, her acting was rather fake.

Even though it was fake, but if she was to come towards me, it would indeed be now?

"Oops. I slipped."

Just as I had thought - I was just thinking of that.

Pretending that her foot was caught in something, Nasuhara fell towards my direction.

Of course, I had already knew her intentions, and I was prepared for it. No matter what sort of attack she will do, I should be able to handle it.

...... Ugh.

From the looks of it, it really looked like she was just falling towards my direction? It was actually deliberate, but the fall looked strangely real - if she was to fall like this, she would definitely get hurt-

I instantly changed my engagement plan.

Upon deciding that she was not falling deliberately, I immediately changed my posture to catch her.

"Uhhh... Ha."

Even so, it was still something that happened in an instant.

I couldn't possibly maintain my balance nicely, nor could I stopped her coolly. The only thing I could do, was to act as her cushion in a rather horrible manner.

Which means to say, that I am lying down with my back facing downwards, while Nasuhara was down on her fours, but...... Forget it, since I couldn't do it coolly.

"You have rather good reflexes."

While maintaining such a position, Nasuhara praised me with her usual emotionless expression.

"You was actually thinking about your next move, but after clearing all your doubts, your actions were swift and without hesitation. There shouldn't be any problem in saying that you had passed."

"Really? Thanks."

Though I had no idea on what I had passed.

"I say, though you was falling deliberately, but the way you did it was really without any reservations. You may get injured if you did actually fall onto the ground like you did. Do be more careful."

"I see. I will be careful."

"Mhmm. Please do."

"I understand."

"Mhmm. Please."

"......"

"......"

"..........."

"..........."

"...... I say, Nasuhara?"

"Yes?"

"I was thinking, that it is about time you get off me."

"I can't do that."

"Ehhhhh?"

I gave a disturbed smile while looking at Nasuhara, who was sitting on me like she was riding a horse, and staring at me,

"Well, but if you don't move away, then I will not be able to get up."

"Yes. Theoretically, that's how it is."

"Urm, then, may I ask, how long are you planning to be in this position?"

"Until my revenge is over."

"Ehhhhhhh~?"

That was bad.

Did I really...... pissed her off? Since she had her emotionless expression on, I couldn't tell.

But to be staring at each other in such a position, it felt really terrible. I had never experienced such a thing, where it had suddenly became like this, at such a place and time. Even if these conditions were removed, it was still bad. Ignoring her actions and usual speech, Nasuhara is indeed an extremely charming girl, so I was slightly at a loss on what to do. Instead of saying that I was disturbed, I should say that I was embarrassed to death.

Ugh.

In any case, I should try to negotiate with her at this point of time.

What should I do to subdue her anger? I have to get that answer from her.

"I say, Nasuhara."

"What's the matter?"

"You had said that you will be maintaining this position no matter what, until your revenge has been completed."

"Yes, I did say that."

"Specifically speaking, what should be done in order for your revenge to be complete - can you tell me the answer to that? To ride on me like I am a horse, what exactly are you planning to do?"

"...... Well, regarding that."

I stared straight into Nasuhara, who was at a loss of words.

I tried to be as sincere and honest as I could.

The basic of the art of negotiation is to successfully convey your sincerity to the other person. If I was to look away or laugh accidentally, it will result in me stirring Nasuhara's anger. In the unfavorable situation of me being ridden by someone, I had to be careful, or else.

She was staring straight into me.

And I stared back at her even more intensely.

"Ugh."

A tiny moan leaked out from Nasuhara.

Was she frightened by my stare? I had absolutely no intention of make her retreat via intimidation, but it was a sign that things were going better for me, since I had gained the upper hand psychologically.

I should grab on to this chance to strike.

"I wish you can tell me. What are you intending to do? What should I do?"

"..........."

"No matter what, you are a girl who is riding on a guy's body. I understand very well that it is not something that can be settled hastily. I also understand perfectly, about the fact that your emotions are currently running high."

"......."

At the home ground of others, in an enclosed space with no one else, and in an extremely unfavorable physical position. Since the opposite party had full control of my killing rights, I would have to use my ultimate techniques as well. I increased the warmness to my voice, and acted naturally while taking action, despite me lying on my back.

"I do know about how you are feeling, and if possible, I want to reciprocate to those feelings as sincerely as I can. So please tell me your feelings, using your words. Try your best to convey it all to me."

"..........."

"Nasuhara. What do you want to do? What do you wish to do to me?"

"..........."

"Nasuhara."

"..........."

"Nasuhara?"

Nasuhara was still looking downwards at me with that emotionless expression. However, for someone as eloquent as her, the length of her silence was a little too long.

(...........?)

I couldn't help but be worried.

She is someone who is as beautiful as a human doll. But could it be that this girl, is not really human but just a human-figurine - I was hit with that illusion.

For me, at that point of time, it was a really realistic illusion.

What if she, whose beauty had reached a state of a miracle, was really something that was man-made - upon thinking of that, I became really frightened.

"Nasuhara?"

I raised up my hand half-consciously.

I touch her cheeks, which was just like that of a plastic model's.

To confirm via my sense of touch, if she had any consciousness; if there was any warmth - even though that was all I was intending to do,

"—— Uh!?"

A sound of *pa*.

As though she was totally in sync with that onomatopoeia, Nasuhara's face was instantly dyed red.

"—— Uh! —— Uh!?"

She gave that inaudible cry, immediately disengaged the position of her on her fours, and stood up,

"~~~~~~~~~~~ Uuuhhhhhhh!"

She rushed to her bed in a panic and dived onto it, then pulled her blanket over and wrapped herself into a ball.

....

...... Ah.

What's happening?

In any case. This girl is indeed human.

"Oi~. Nasuhara~. Oi~."

"..........."

"Ah, I am sorry. I had no idea that I'll cause you to be that shocked. It was not deliberate. Really."

"....... How humiliating."

Softly.

From the ball of blanket, I could hear her muttering something.

"No matter what, the girl had already done things like that, so how did that guy managed to remain composed? They are at the girl's house, alone, and she was riding on him? Could it be that he had totally no interest in girls other than his younger sister? I had better come up with a countermeasure to that."

"...........?"

As that came from within the blanket, I couldn't hear her too clearly. However, I was pretty certain that she was saying words of hatred.

"I want to take revenge."

After a moment of silence, Nasuhara said that. While peeking out from her blanket with one of her eyes.

Even though that sentence felt rather scary, the look of her was slightly - no, it was pretty cute.

"As for the countless humiliations you had given me today, I had decided, that I am to make you pay for that. I swear to heavens, that I will constantly remind myself of this humiliation. I bet with my life on the line, that I will make you regret on what you had done today."

"No no no, hold on a second. By how things had developed just now, I couldn't quite understand the need to say things like that. Of course, it was indeed wrong of me to touch your face without letting you know first......"

"I will definitely fulfill the things once I had said them. Please be mentally prepared."

Her tone was monotonous, but it sounded very stubborn.

While still staring at me from within her blankets (upon closer look, one of her eyes were slightly teary, how cute), Nasuhara declared.

"I had no choice...... Ah, I am really sorry. I apologize, so please forgive me."

"There is no use apologizing."

"Will you forgive me if I go on my knees and kowtow?" [TLNote: In case if one does not know what kowtow means, please do a search on the dictionary/online]

"I will not forgive you."

"Even if I die in apology?"

"If you think you can erase the humiliation you had done to me by using that life of yours, then you couldn't have been more wrong."

"Ahaha...... Uh, forget it then. I will be thankful to god if you can go easy on me."

.... With that.

My visit to Nasuhara's home had ended up with me causing Nasuhara to be fuming with anger.

Well, even though I had made her angry, but strangely, it did not feel like I was hated by her. No matter what, there will be plenty of chances for me to resolve this.

Perhaps I should buy her favorite doll or something, and gift it to her as a present of apology - while thinking of all this, I left Nasuhara's house.

Chapter 4.1: 11th April, AM7:00

As such.

The consecutive days of house-visiting, had came to the final day.

The person whom I am visiting today is obviously that girl, which for me, was something rather heavy, from all sorts of perspective. Or rather, I could say that I wasn't that interested. Then again, it would be overly unnatural for me to skip only her visit.

Therefore, I would have to convince my sister today as well, in order to create my own personal time.

Uh- mmm.

What should I do?

I had use praise on the first day, and praise+bait on the second - and my sister had accepted it. But I didn't really think that similar tactics will be effective again.

Even though Akiko's thinking-process is really simple, and she does listen to me a lot, I will still be suspected by her if I carried out these suspicious actions for three consecutive days.

Things will definitely become troublesome if Akiko knows about my house visits.

What should I do...... I couldn't come up with any decent plans......

No matter how hard I think, I couldn't think of anything good. I was stuck.

It looked like I had to prepare myself to do things forcefully and make my sister unhappy - just when I decided to do that.

A small miracle happened.

No, I was not too sure if that can be called a miracle, but in any case, it's definitely true that it happened at a perfect timing, and brought a glimmer of light to my otherwise hopeless situation.

But, if I do that, the pros and cons will definitely...... no, it will obviously bring about more headaches for me? Definitely.

Forget it, I was left with no choice.

I'll just utilize this chance to its greatest extent, and concentrate fully on the current crisis.

***

It was the usual students' hostel, at the familiar administrator office.

Facing the back of my sister who was making breakfast while humming to a tune, I spoke.

"I say Akiko. There is something-"

"When spoken to by Onii-chan, Akiko must reject it quickly."

"Eh?"

That was not something within my expectations.

"What? Why?"

"It will not do if you look down on me. I have already anticipated what Onii-chan is about to say."

"Ohhh. What's that?"

"It will be something like you will not be able to go home with me after school today. You had intended to do some immoral act amounting to *neglect* towards your cute younger sister, right?"

"Incidentally, *neglect* has the meaning of abandoning. Are you admitting right now that you are an infant-like person in the society, who will not be able to survive without the delicate care and concern from others?"

"It is useless to try to seal my words with that sort of logic. I had utilized the compassion of a cute younger sister for these two days and tolerated Onii-chan's barbaric acts, but I will not yield today. I will break past all obstacles, and make you go back with me today."

"No matter what?"

"Of course."

"You will not change your mind?"

"Of course. I have justice backing me. Even if the world is to be overturned at this very instant, I will not change my stand."

"Is that so. I fully understand your thoughts."

I solemnly nodded my head,

"Speaking of which, I had accidentally stumbled upon this while I was packing our luggage that we had from our house moving."

"What? So you are planning to say some random things to divert the topic yet again. I had already seen through that scheme of yours, and I'll not fall for it-"

A sound of *pita*. [TLNote: Japanese onomatopoeia]

While remaining in the posture of her handing me something, my sister froze in an instant.

After a few seconds.

She exchanged glances with me while maintaining that stiff expression, and shook her head and hands.

My sister said.

"*Dat's wrong.*"

"...... Why did you use dialects subconsciously? I want to listen to your excuses."

"No. This thing, it is really not like that."

"This book, it's yours, right?"

"No, it's not! It just so happens that it is in my care for these past few weeks. It is not something that I had bought with my pocket money."

"But the back of the cover has your name written on it?"

"Ahhh darn! This disciplined personality of mine which caused me to write my name on all of my belongings had backfired on me!?"

Well then.

I had discovered by chance, the thing that had shaken my sister so much, it had caused her to speak in dialect. The problem comes when we are talking about what sort of thing it is.

"No, it really isn't. This book is not like it seems. Or I should be saying, please take into consideration the fact that I am currently in my teenage years, before making a just judgement......."

It's a book.

The size of a typical small-format book, and costing at a thousand yen. In this country, one can say that its circulation is second only to that of bunkobon - the typical books.

Needless to say, there is nothing suspicious about the fact that it is a book.

"Minan Publishing. <The Story of Forbidden Love>."

"Uwa!?"

" 'Sixteen years old high-school student, Akio, who is secretly in love with his younger sister, Akina.' "

"Oi Onii-chan!? Stop reading the summary!"

" 'Without telling anyone the feelings that he had harbored for a long time, Akio had kept it hidden deep in his heart. But due to some minor incidents acting as the catalyst, Akio gradually could not control his taboo thoughts.' "

"Ughhh!?"

" 'On the other hand, Akina had slowly found out about her brother's feelings. Not long after, the two of them began to seek for each other passionately-' "

"Uehhh!?"

"The illustration on the cover, is the scene of Akio and Akina entangled to each other passionately."

"T-That's enough Onii-chan...... I *give, give up*......"

I looked downwards at my sister, who was squatting on the tatami, while hugging her own body weakly,

"Anything you wish to say to your defense?"

"Please...... Please act as if you did not...... see it......"

"I can't do that."

"No! It's a misunderstanding!"

My sister gathered her remaining strength, stood up and began to explain.

"Please do not be fooled by the book's title and cover! This book is really wonderful! Although there are some overly stimulating content, but it is totally about pure love!"

"This is a novel about incestuous sex, you know?"

"No! It's nothing as vulgar as that - this is literature! I am definitely not reading it with a perverted intention!"

"The names of the protagonists are Akio and Akina."

"I admit that I am hooked by the names of the protagonists! However, that was really just part of the reason! If you had read the other works of Shindou Koichirou - the author of this book, you will be able to understand!"

"...... Could it be, that Akiko is a fan of this author?"

"A die-hard fan!"

"...... Are you serious......"

"Oi Onii-chan!? Please do not try to avoid me that obviously! That will really hurt me!"

"No, even if you say that......"

Being totally opposite of me, who was slowly sinking into a gloomy mood, my sister had revived.

"Please, do read it once! If you do that, you will definitely understand his good points!"

"Forget it?"

"At the very least, read the prologue!"

"No no no, forget it. Let me go, seriously."

This is probably that.

Turning the disaster into a blessing, and pulling me to 'that side' after making me read the book - she was probably planning that? Really, what sort of joke is that?

"Akiko."

"You are willing to read?"

"Nope. Even so, the hobbies of one differs from person to person. Though I had quite a lot of things that I want to say regarding you having read that book in detail, I do wish to respect your interests as much as I can."

"This, what do you mean?"

"This time, I'll pretend that I had never seen this book. As you had wished."

"Really!?"

"In return, you have to promise me. From now on, you will take care of such books, and not let me see them."

"Understood."

"And you are not to talk about the subject of this book, no matter what."

"I understand that as well."

"And finally. You are to approve of me going somewhere else after school."

"Uhh...... T-That has no relation to this......"

"You will approve, right?"

"Uuuhhhhhhh......"

It seemed like Akiko could not accept it totally, and was hugging her head. But she did understand that she was in a very bad position.

Soon, with an expression of her giving up, she said with a crestfallen look,

"...... I understand. Akiko will obediently stay at home for today as well."

"Mmm. That's how it is."

"But, please return home as soon as you can, neh? I'll prepare a scrumptious dinner and wait for your return. Promise?"

"OK. I'll try my best."

***

Roughly like that, I had managed to convince my sister for the third day as well.

...... Oh boy.

Even then, she has a really shocking hobby. And she don't have to be that precise about it.

Then again, to negotiate with this thing as my shield, had I indeed taken a wrong step? Would it be better if I remained silent, and pretended that I had never seen it?

Wrong, just only that. Upon seeing it, it is impossible for me not to react. Therefore, I should at least use it as a leverage in the negotiation - it was definitely better to make use of it like that.

This thing will definitely take its retribution on me in the future - I had that sort of premonition. Then again, I had more important things at hand, so I'll set that aside for the moment.

Chapter 4.2: 11th April, PM5:00

President of St. Ririana Academy's students council, Nikaido Arashi.

She has an insatiable desire towards sex, which can only be explained by her having some sort of mutation. And the place she lives in is the farthest away from school.

It took two hours by train and walking.

For St. Ririana Academy, which has students from all over the place, this sort of distance is not strikingly far. Even so, considering the (what should be) extremely busy Seito-Kaichou, such a long journey to and fro must have been a huge burden for her.

Despite all these, Kaichou's grades are still the level's *top*, as though it was naturally so. Somehow, she managed to clear the (definitely) busy jobs of the students council without even batting an eyelid (well, probably) - regarding this point, it really makes one speechless.

If her personality - or rather, her sexual drive could be just a little more decent, I would have, without a doubt, praised her wholesomely as the most suitable candidate to stand at the top of St. Ririana Academy.

...... While thinking of all of this, I was wandering about with the map in one of my hand. It looked like I had finally managed to arrive at what looks to be, the front door of my target.

It's a samurai's mansion.

And it looks really heavy.

Well, the hostel I am living in, and that shabby apartment of Ginbe's, both had a sort of heavy feeling to them. However, the aura that this mansion is emitting, is totally on another level compared to those.

Tall plaster walls. The elegantly planted trees in the courtyard, and the tiles of the roof that is slightly moldy - such a building gives off a feel that is more of like a citadel, rather than a mansion.

It felt like there could be ancient warriors, dressed in yukata, that will open the door and peek out their head at any moment. That type of feeling.

Honestly, it's a house that totally did not match a person like Nikaido Arashi. That person, even though she is dressed like a vagabond, has a personality that is rather slack. If she lives in this sort of stubbornly solemn mansion, she will feel breathlessly suppressed. Ah, could it be that her exceptionally many lovers, are due to a result of that?

Whatever.

It had came down to the last day of the house visits. The countermeasures to my sister's brother-complex shall come to an end here.

Though it was a rather hasty countermeasure, I had no idea what will happen after that. Believing in Nikaido Kaichou's words: 'I'll come up with a more solid plan during this period', I will have to endure through this day, no matter what.

***

I was guided by a polite female attendant, into a small building by the corner of the courtyard.

It's a typical tea hut, that has a thatch roof and windows carved out of the clay walls.

....

Uhh- mmm.

That was some rather unexpected development.

By leading me to the tea-room, it typically means that she will be serving me tea. I did not really learn much about the etiquette of tea-drinking. I was hoping that I would not embarrass myself during the house visits......

Just as I was procrastinating uneasily, the female attendant urged me, "Please enter."

Oh well, since I was already there, I had no reason to walk away as well.

"Sorry for intruding-"

I prepared myself, and pulled the shouji aside, [TLNote: Wiki is your best friend if you do not know what that is]

"I had been waiting for your arrival."

The host of the tea-room welcomed me, with her three fingers gathered at a single point.

It was a woman who was wearing a kimono, and had her hair coiled up meticulously.

"Welcome to Nikaido's house for today. Please take a seat."

"Ah. Alright."

I would be shocked if you do such a serious reception - while thinking of that, I lightly released the shouji, and sat on the cushion as wanted by the other person.

Naturally, I did a seiza.

Oh, but things were not looking too good.

I had no choice but to do so because of the atmosphere. As Takanomiya's house being a western-styled building, I was not too used to seiza. Hopefully, things will not turn into me not being able to stand up, due to my feet feeling numb.

"Uh, I say."

In a small space of only three tatami-mats big, just as the words suggest, I was shrinking my body, and staring straight at the woman who was sitting in seiza before me.

It was as though she had worn that red houndstooth-check kimono to match the color of her hair.

If she would do a posture with a straightened back, it would totally looked like as though she was a beauty from some paintings.

Her line of sight is about as high as mine, which means she is rather tall for a girl- well, let's not care about that for the moment. What was she planning to do with me?

"Sorry. Urm, are you Kaichou's- Nikaido-kaichou's elder sister?"

"No."

"Could it be that you are the younger sister then? I somehow doubt you are her mother."

"I am Nikaido Arashi."

"Eh, your name is Nikaido Arashi huh. Nice to meet you. I am Himenokouji Akito. Please take care of me. ......Urm, well, where is Kaichou then?"

Then.

Upon saying that, I finally tilted my head.

"...... Hmm? Huh?"

"Though I had anticipated it, or rather, you had acted exactly as I had thought. However, to mistaken me that exaggeratedly, did make me rather surprised as well."

Covering the corner of her lips, she gave an elegant smile. She once again got her fingers together, and did another bow,

"Welcome to my humble abode, Akito-sama. Just as you had seen, this is a rather crude house, so please do not mind that. Relax and take a rest."

"Haa."

I still could not figure what was going on. I blinked my eyes, and looked at the lady in front of me.

A classic smile, like that of Mona Lisa.

She was sitting in a calm and dignified manner, similar to that of a silent forest - it was as though she is a scholar that holed herself in the library.

Even if I had made some sort of mistake somewhere.

She could not possibly be the president of the students council, someone who is always smiling confidently; someone who will die if she does not flirt once every five minutes; someone whose computer will spring up with the term 'lover' on the predicted list, once you press the "A" button.
[TLNote: 'lover' refers to 愛人（あいじん）, ai-jin.]

It should not have been possible, but.

"Eh? Kaichou?"

"Yes."

"Eh? Really?"

"Yes, really?"

"Eh, but what about the eye-patch that you have always been wearing? Your Japanese sword? I say, why had you changed into a totally different person?"

"Ever since the olden days, the Nikaido family."

Nikaido Arashi -self proclaimed- smiled lightly while saying,

"We are a family that focuses on drilling our martial arts, and becoming bodyguards for the various nobles."

"Haa."

"Needless to say, as compared to Himenokouji family, the position of Nikaido family is much lower. It's another thing at school, but at here, Nikaido's house, and as part of the Nikaido family to welcome you, I can only bow my head to the lowest, and receive you respectfully."

"Haa."

Since I was still in a state of shock, I could only do these sort of stiff replies.

Ah, well, it is indeed like that.

There was all sorts of troublesome rules while I was at the Takanomiya family. Although the prestige of the Himenokouji family is rather similar to that of the Takanomiya, it is still rather troubling for me if she holds the Himenokouji family in high regards, as it is in the state of having no successor.

"No matter what, please taste a cup of the tea, that I will prepare for you."

"Haa, well. Oh, do as you please."

"Well then."

After giving a bow, Nikaido-kaichou began to brew the tea.

Holding a small silk cloth and a ladle, she took the kettle that was heated by coal, and poured the water into the tea bowl - well, honestly, I am totally clueless about the tea ceremony, but it did feel like her actions were rather smooth-flowing.

"Please. Although it is just coarse tea."

I gently accepted the bowl that was given to me, and lifted it to my lips.

I should act as though I was thinking of something while rotating the tea bowl using my hands, then took multiple sips to enjoy the taste thoroughly.

I did not know if that is acceptable or not. Then again, at such a time, it was not really important to be following the rules strictly. It would do if I am to be in serious attitude throughout the whole thing.

Anyway, even though it was really bitter, it went past my throat really comfortably.

Hmm. Delicious.

"...... I am satisfied."

"Sorry for not offering you anything better. Is it to your taste?"

Nikaido-kaichou gave a light smile,

"I am still not experienced in it. If I had done anything bad, please do not hesitate to give me your valued advice."

"No, nothing of that sort. It was beautifully done."

"I do not deserve your praise."

"Or rather, I totally do not know anything regarding such things. It should be me, who should ask you to point out any mistakes that I had made."

"Please do not be that reserved. Please relax, and take a rest."

"Ahh, I should say that it feels rather nervous to be treated this way. I say, Kaichou, it is about time for you to stop doing that?"

"That, meaning?"

"That overly respectful attitude. It somehow feels like the tempo has been upset."

"That is because this is the house of Nikaido, and I am part of the Nikaido family."

While saying that, Kaichou was still maintaining that light smile.

Ahh, that's right.

The senpai of today was demure and dignified. Even though we are just a year apart in age, it felt like she was really mature. It would be of great help if she can maintain this attitude.

"I say, Kaichou. I have just noticed something."

"What is it?"

"The initial revelation was too strong, and thus I had missed it accidentally...... Your eye, it is perfectly fine, isn't it?"

That's right.

One of the features of Kaichou is her eye-patch.

To think I had actually thought there was something behind it, and had thus tried my best not to touch on it. But after removing the eye-patch, isn't those a perfectly fine pair of eyes?

"Ahh, the eye-patch?"

Kaichou grinned.

"That is just an accessory."

"Accessory? That exaggerating eye-patch? What exactly are you thinking, to be wearing that sort of things?"

"Because, Akito-sama."

With a chuckle,

"If I wear the eye-patch, then it has a more chuu-ni-byou feel, which makes me way cooler, right?" [TLNote: 中二病, a saying that refers to the phenomenon of teenagers being overly self-conscious, and etc.]

"Eh? What? Chuu-ni?"

"Nothing. If you do not understand it, then may you please not ask about it."

Ignoring me, who was tilting my head,

"And for an item like my Japanese sword, it is exceptionally conspicuous. The eye-patch acts as an object to take their attention away, so that the impression of my waist will be slightly lessened."

"There indeed may have some truth to the reasoning behind it. However, if you do not wish for your sword to attract attention, then shouldn't you just not wear it from the start?"

"Due to some reasons, I cannot do that."

"Really. Well, you do have your difficulties, so I'll not ask too deeply on that."

"And also, Akito-sama. Please observe carefully."

"? Observe what?"

The smiling Kaichou pointed to her own eye.

The right eye that had always been covered by the eye-patch.

...... Hmmm?

Ehhhhh?

"Did I see things wrongly? Though the lighting is not too good, and I cannot see it clearly...... But senpai, is the color of your right eye different? It looks slightly red."

"Yes. Just as you had seen."

"Eh......"

It's the so called heterochromia iridum?

Though I had seen before such cats or dogs, that was the first time I had seen that sort of person.

"Because the colors of my eyes will be much more conspicuous than the eye-patch or the sword. In other words, I am covering up the conspicuousness with another conspicuous thing."

"I see, so that's how it is."

Ahh. Perhaps it was really like that.

Let's not talk about how the special colors of her eyes are much more conspicuous as compared to the sword or the eye-patch. The unique features of the body, under certain circumstances, are always linked to victimization like bullying and stuff - that is something that everyone knows.

What's more, looking at Kaichou's case, as she herself has a lot of potential (should be), she would have easily met situations similar to 'the gun firing at the exposed bird's head'.

In any case, as compared to maintaining the unique features that she is born with and exposing her own pain, it would be better to take the initiative and create other conspicuous features - she had probably chosen that very proactive option.

If one is to hide a tree, it is best to hide it the forest.

If one wishes to hide a conspicuous point, he just have to make other areas become conspicuous as well.

That was just the tip of the iceberg, to the abilities of Nikaido Arashi.

If you think about it, perhaps her way of speech and the character settings are part of that as well. Ahhh, isn't that rather impressive.

"Oh, I did not realize that. I had never thought about the meaning behind the look of yours."

"I do not deserve your praise."

"Honestly speaking, the ordinary attire of Kaichou is at the stage where it does not just make people stop in their tracks. If that is the reason behind it, then it is of another matter altogether. If you are born with eyes of different colors, then you will have to do the necessary countermeasures as well. Mmm, I can accept that."

"I really do not deserve your praise...... Well, but this is contact lenses, you know."

"What the hell!"

I could not help but yelled.

Ahh, really. Doing that was totally pointless then, from various points of view.

"What do you mean by that!? I really don't understand you!?"

"After removing my eye-patch, it was revealed that I had eyes of different colors - this is precisely the thing that adds on to the flavor of being a chuu-ni-byou. Don't you think so?"

"How would I know!?"

"Also, this is a single-wear contacts. It will be very hygienic as long as you change it every day."

"From the bottom of my heart, I don't give a damn about that!"

"To dwell on it further, it can reveal the contrast-moe upon me removing the eye-patch. If so, the success rate of hooking my lover will move up by a stage."

"So, it all boils down to that!"

I felt that this person should apologize to me sincerely. To think that I had actually thought for her that much inside my heart - in the end, it was all for nothing.

...... Forget it. Speaking of that.

Upon seeing all these, I did feel slightly at ease now. That was the truth.

No matter what, this is Kaichou's house, and the tea-house is an enclosed space.

In the past, while being alone with Kaichou in the students council room, I had nearly fallen into her trap due to my carelessness. To be honest, I had arrived here while in a state of high alert.

Well, to disclose her tactics to someone whom she was about to hook - even if it was Kaichou, she could not possibly be that stupid. That was what I had thought.

Also, even though my impression towards her appearance had such a huge change, Nikaido Arashi is still Nikaido Arashi after all - I still know that she is of a carnivorous character. So honestly, that will be rather pointless.

"How do you feel?"

Just then.

It was as though Kaichou had seen through my thoughts,

"If that can make you feel slightly more relaxed, then that will be for the best."

"...... If you put it that way, it totally sounds like you had it all planned from the start."

"Think of it however as you wish."

"Well, from a certain point of view, I am indeed relieved. Though your looks may have changed a lot, but your interior is still that of a beast. I do understand that much."

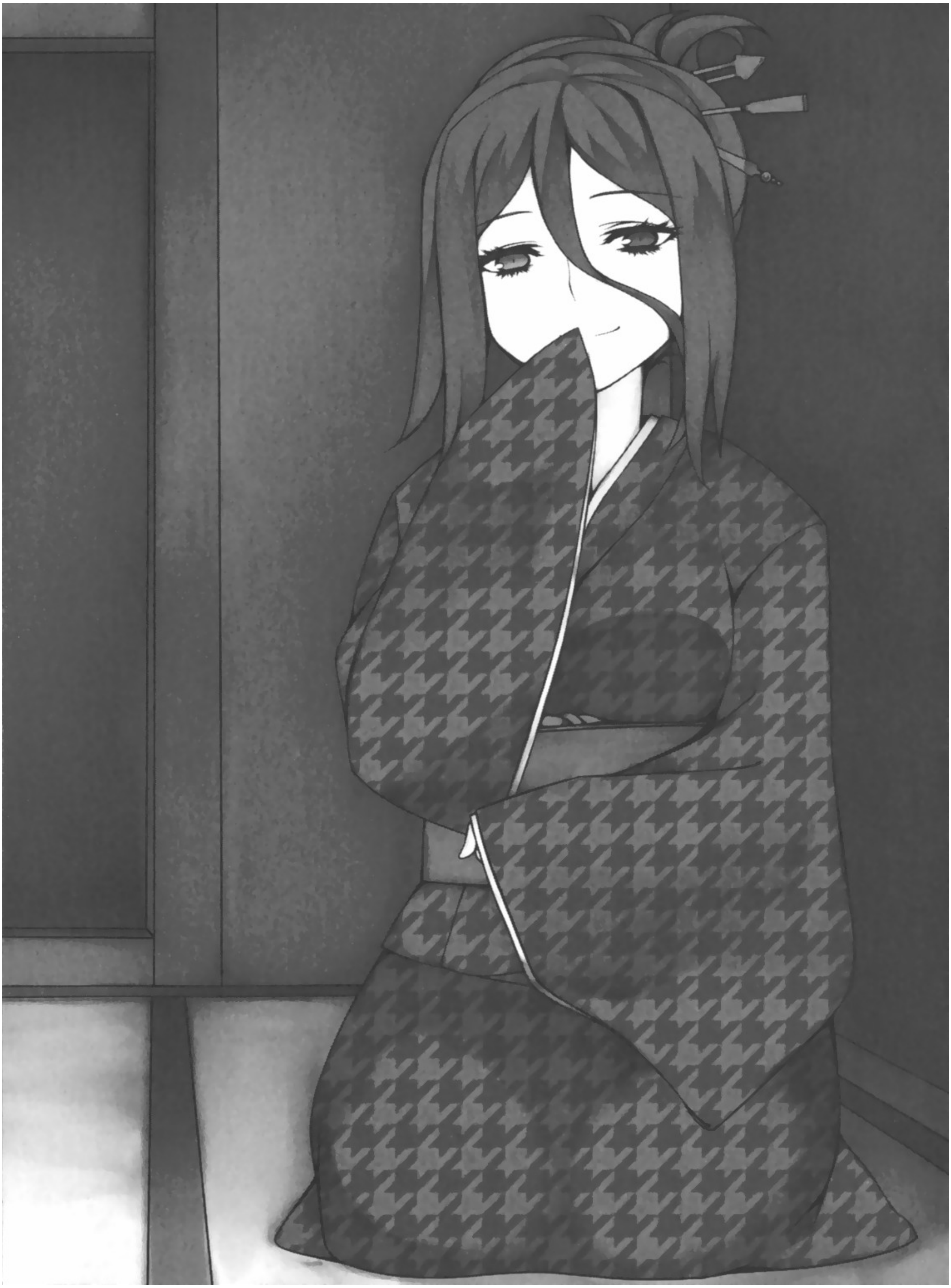
"Ahh. You do know how to talk."

"No. I am not praising you, you know?"

"Kukuku."

Kaichou covered the tip of her mouth with her hands, and laughed elegantly like she had did just now,

"Recently, it seems like Akito-sama had been really busy?"



"Hmm? Is that so?"

"It is obvious from the look on your face. You seemed troubled. And there was a hint of fatigue."

"Ahh. I guess, since I have been house-visiting for three consecutive days. It is natural for me to become like that."

"And so, at least when you are at my house, please relax yourself. I had done all these things due to me thinking of that. Because I feel that regardless of who it is, everyone will need some sort of refreshment from all the work and bustle."

"Ohh. To steal some rest amid the bustle - is that what you are saying?"

"Yes. Precisely that - rape in the room." [TLNote: The previous line of 'steal some rest amid the bustle' was actually 忙中閑あり, while Kaichou said 房中姦あり. Both sound exactly the same.]

"...... Weird. It should be the exact same thing, but why did it sound so obscene when it came from Kaichou's mouth. I wonder why."

"It's just your imagination."

"Kukuku," she laughed again elegantly.

"In any case, in view of the current situations of Akito-sama and Akiko-sama, it has been decided that I will have to come up with some sort of countermeasures quickly - that's how it is. This sort of emergency house-visits have came to an end today, so I think there will be a need for something new tomorrow."

"Ugh...... well, it may be a little...... but to me, I still wish to hear about the measures on how to prevent Akiko's appraisal in school from dropping, roughly like that. If you can do that, it will be of a huge help."

"This is not that easy. For us Nikaidos, we do not have any intention to stand on either side of the Takanomiya or the Arisugawa, but even then, we will have to make some sort of report due to our position. If we are to try to cover things up with some shoddy methods, that will be slightly......"

Ugh.

Though it might have sounded like that because she was saying it while smiling. To put it simply, it means: "If you don't listen to me, there will be lots of trouble waiting".

That's really troublesome.

From the tone of Kaichou, I had the feeling that my work had been exposed to her as well.

It is not something that cannot be seen, but if possible I want to keep it a secret...... then again, it is not something that can remain hidden. Putting aside people like Ginbe, who will remain silent due to the agreement between gentlemen - if Kaichou or Nasuhara have the intention, they will simply just reveal the secret.

Forget it.

As of now, there is no use thinking too much.

Then again, to say the truth.

Though I had just transferred to St. Ririana Academy for only a few days.

And also,

"Due to some reasons, they were forced to be separated -omitted- compiled into a simple, boring story."

Though I wished to say that, it looked like I am straying in a direction that is way off the original path.

As for myself, Himenokouji Akito.

Regarding the recent few days where it had been chaotic all of the sudden, I could not help but like it, surprisingly. It was indeed so.

That's right.

Even though I had endured through the countless years, and had finally managed to fulfill what could be said to be my final objective: 'To live together with my younger sister'.

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi.

Nasuhara Anastasia.

Nikaido Arashi.

Together with me and my sister, the members of the students council. I had started to feel that it is not that bad, for us to be involved in all these chaos due to whatever reasons.

"...... What's wrong, Akito-sama?"

"Eh? What's what?"

"No. Because you had suddenly shown an expression of happiness."

"Really? No, I don't really think so."

"I can see through that sort of things. Akito-sama had been enrolled in the school for a few days, but I am still the president of the students council. I can still understand that."

Ugh.

Though I had no intention of showing it, I was still seen through by her huh.

Or could it be that it would be revealed, even if I had intended to hide it, due to me feeling really good right now.

I had became rather honest.

"No matter what it is."

Kaichou widened her smile and said,

"No matter what sort of reason, as long as Akito-sama can happily enjoy the current time, it will be great."

Once again, she gathered her fingertips and made a bow.

"...... Kaichou."

"Yes."

"Please do not act that way, really. I had said it many times already, you know."

"And I shall stress it yet again. Due to my position, it is only natural for me to be doing that in this situation."

"Whatever, you are right as well. It is a rather huge gain for me to see a rare side of Kaichou. That mode of yours is rather refreshing. It's rather good."

"I do not deserve your praise."

"But from tomorrow onward, please turn back into the normal Kaichou, alright? No matter what, I still like the normal Kaichou more."

"............"

Mmm?

While maintaining the posture of her bow, Kaichou remained motionless.

"Kaichou?"

"...... A natural flirt, this person is."

Softly.

I heard her muttering something to the tatami.

"At the perfect moment, he had shown his air-headed personality without reservations. This type of person is really hard to deal with...... I would have nearly treated that as the truth. Though I had no intention to make my move today, it will be better if I eat him......"

"? Sorry, I couldn't quite hear you properly."

"No, please do not mind it."

Kaichou lifted her head while saying that.

With the exemplary smile still on her face,

"I have been on a diet recently. I felt that it will be better if I control my intake a little, that's how it is."

"Eh, is that so? But Kaichou's figure is that perfect. There is no need to be dieting?"

"Women had all sorts of hardship that they are undergoing which could not be seen. To endure through the hardship, one must have self-control which is tough as steel, and yet flexible at the same time. Precisely because of that, I can exist as who I am. That's how it is."

"Aha, self-control huh. That is a term that seems to be rather out of Kaichou's reach."

"Ahh. If you wish for it to be that way, it is fine too? For me to throw away your so called 'self-control that is out of reach'."

"No no no."

No good, no good. Kaichou's eyes had given out a rather suspicious flash of light. At this time, before anything happens, I must-

"Let us not talk about that. Can I have another bowl of tea? The taste is really good."

"It feels like you had tried to cover up something, but I understand."

Returning to her elegant expressions, Kaichou began to brew some tea.

I had enjoyed her craft immensely, and allowed time to past by me leisurely.

...... Umm.

Well, it felt like I had finally managed to complete today's mission safely.

With that, I had finally managed to clear my responsibilities. So what awaits next is Kaichou's so called 'new tactics' and such.

Chapter 5: 12th April, AM9:00

The members of the Himenokouji family always wake up early.

My sister wakes up at five in the morning to prepare breakfast and do some housework. I will wake up at six to make preparations for the morning as well. That's how it always is.

However, that is restricted only to the normal days.

Like today, where it is the school's rest day, both of us siblings will sleep till rather late. The sleep that we lacked during normal days will be replenished on the rest day, that's how it is.

Not to mention, after visiting Kaichou's house yesterday, I had transformed into a workaholic, and worked all the way until the sun had risen up high into the sky before I head to sleep. Not to hide it from you guys, if I am to talk about how sleepy I am today, it is at the point where I will want to sleep even if I am to face any sort of torture.

Well, it was thanks to that, that I had finally managed to catch up on the work I had set aside, due to the house-visits for the past three days.

No matter what, to force myself like that, me being dead tired was something to be expected. Having finished my work, I collapsed straight into my bed, and prepared myself to sleep like a corpse - just when I was about to fall asleep.

Something happened.

Kon kon

Kon kon

It was not the sound of coughs.

But the sound of the door being knocked. Probably. If it was not my auditory hallucination or something - though my brain still managed to understand things like that, I was in a half-asleep state then, and my consciousness was very hazy. My limbs had no strength as well.

Don don

Don don

...... Ugh.

This time, the sounds of the door being knocked was louder than before.

I say, who the heck is that?

The people living in this hostel is only me and my sister. We did not order for the delivery of newspaper nor milk. Then is it someone asking for some sort of payment? No, how can that be. It should not be the date yet.

Don don dododon

Don dokodon

For some reason, the knocks followed the tempo of drumming.

....

I had no idea who he is, but he seems to be in a good mood. To think I had actually worked overnight and killed countless numbers of my brain-cells in the process, before I was about to finally liberate my own consciousness. It felt like the person was happily ignoring the situation on my side. Really, does benevolence and pity no longer exist in this world?

Dooon dodon, don dodondodon

Dondokodondon, dododondon

*Fine, fine, I understand. Coming, coming."

While replying with a tone that is between dream-talking and moaning, I climbed out of my bed.

I walked in staggering steps akin to that of a zombie,

"Coming, who's that-"

Opening the doors while rubbing my eyes, my sentence came to a halt.

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi

Nasuhara Anastasia.

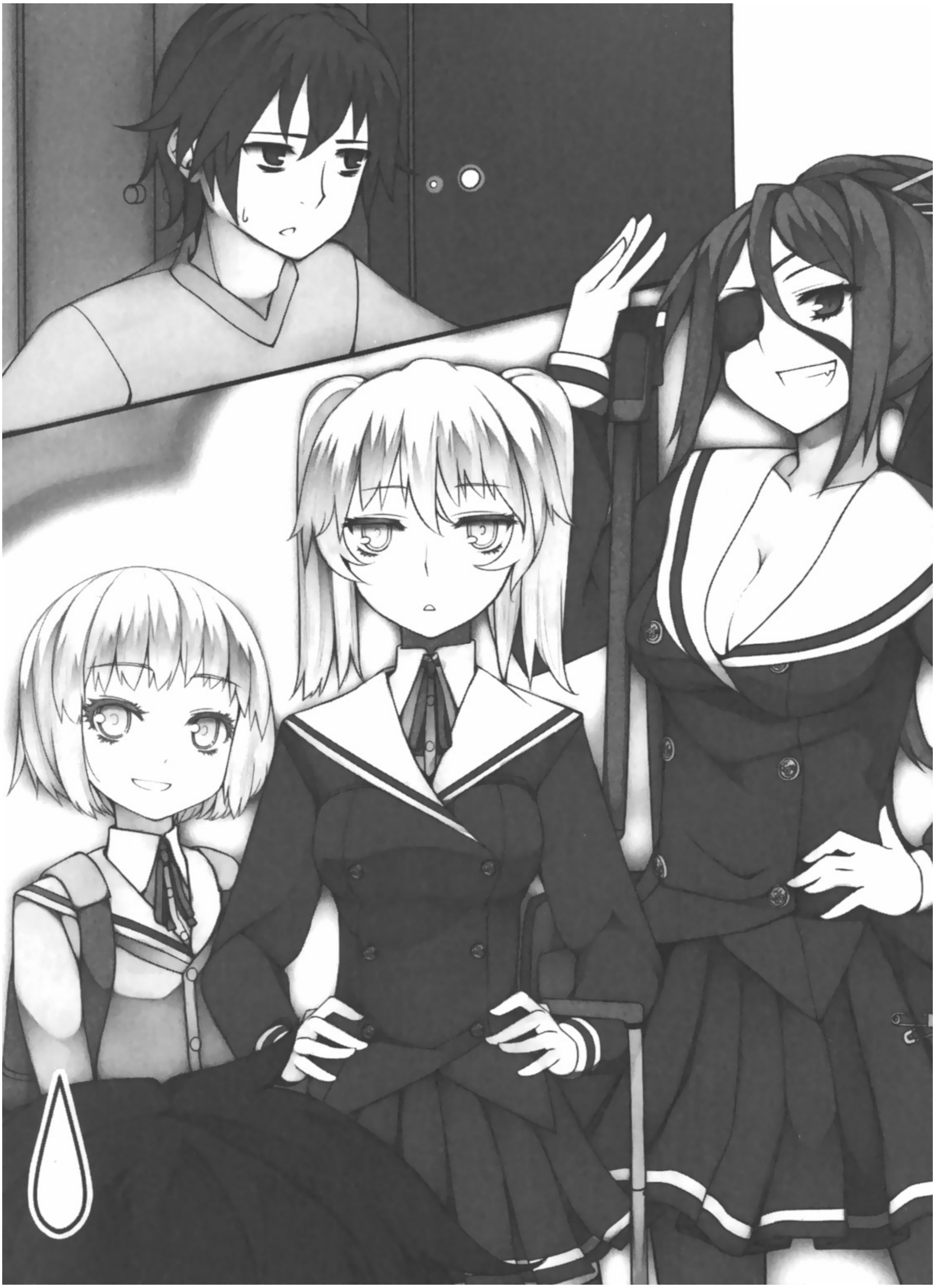
Nikaido Arashi.

Upon taking a closer look, all three of them were people I am familiar with, wearing their uniforms. Standing in front of the opened door.

Ginbe with her ridiculing smile.

Nasuhara was still expressionless, as always.

Kaichou's smile looked as though she was about to eat someone.



"Ah-...... Everyone has gathered this early in the morning- uwhaaaaa-"

I greeted these three with a yawn,

"...... Today's actually rest day, but you guys are wearing your uniform."

"That was your first reaction upon seeing this sort of situation? Well, this is indeed your style. Kakaka."

"Haa."

Kaichou's laugh made my head hurt.

Truthfully, in the current situation, I did not really want to hear that sort of sound.

"Urm, sorry, but I am dead tired today. Can you leave the things for another time?"

"Oh, sorry, leave your sleep for later. We have some things that need to be settled before that."

"Haa."

Ugh. Could it be.

I had worked till not too long ago, and had endured for a rather long time. My mind, being in a dazed and confused state, could not get itself to work no matter what. Could it be that I still cannot differentiate between dream and reality at the current state, or what.

Mmm.

I say, is this indeed me dreaming?

Because isn't this really weird.

Why would these three gather at here?

And for some reasons, they are wearing their uniform.

"Since this still can be considered to be a school's activity, we thought we will wear them here."

Kaichou explained while smiling.

"Aside from private matters, the students of St. Ririana should always be wearing their school uniform. I will indeed do some crazy stuff, but as the students council's president, it will not do if I do not set a good example."

"Haa."

"You, if you are still not awake, should I make you awake at one go? That's right, if you take a peek at my breasts, you will probably wake up, right?"

"No thanks."

Though I was really sleepy, I still replied to things like that immediately without hesitation.

"I say, what exactly is going on? Everyone's gathered at the hostel. Are you guys going somewhere to play due to today being a rest day? Though that is fine with me, please inform me earlier about it......"

"Nope, Akito. It's not like that."

Ginbe shook her head,

"Though I am fine with the suggestion itself, on going out to play. But from now onward, it will be really busy for us, so we can leave that for later."

"Haa."

As I was still sleepy, I could not understand the meaning of my silver-haired friend's words.

What did she mean by 'really busy'. For such a rare chance to rest, I had originally planned to sleep for all my worth, until my body and soul are well rested.

"...... Hmm? I say......"

With my consciousness being slightly better, I had just noticed it.

These three person. Strange, it seemed like they had an uncanny amount of luggage with them?

Light backpacks, travelling cases...... From their hands to their elbows, then to their shoulders, were all sorts of things hanging. It totally looked like they were preparing to abscond somewhere.

"Well, they are just things that we can carry with our hands."

Upon noticing the place I am looking at, Nasuhara lifted her luggage for me to see, "But we do have all the daily necessities. As for the remaining luggage, they will be delivered here later in the day."

"Haa."

What was she saying? I could not get it.

Well, they do have their own things, but what?

"Also, you can be considered as the hostel's head. Something like that?"

Kaichou spoke once again,

"Putting aside the situation in school, at here, you are the one to be here first, and you are the boss. Please take care of us."

"Haa...... Then? What are you guys doing here exactly? To gather together like this. ......Ah, I see. It's a house-visit, right? I had visited your houses, so you guys have to visit mine, right? Ah, but even so, I am still troubled, if you do not inform me about it earlier. If so, I will not be able to prepare for your arrivals."

"Us three, we will be living at this hostel from today onward."

"Haa."

"Though you call it a hostel, but in actual it is an apartment solely for both you siblings. From now on, it will not do if we do not set the rules for our cohabitation. As the luggage for house-moving will arrive in waves later, today will be a rather busy day."

"............"

I rubbed my eyes, and looked at the three visitors for another time.

Kaichou, Nasuhara and Ginbe, all three of them are looking at me with an expression that says 'how long are going to stay confused'.

Their expressions totally did not seem like they were joking.

And there was nothing like the 'Gotcha' you get from the joke shows.

If so, there could only be one conclusion.

"...... Ah. I am indeed dreaming. Back to sleep I go."

"Oi oi hold on a second."

Kaichou jammed her foot into the door just when I was about to closed it.

"Well, we are wrong as well, to be disturbing you when you are about to sleep. Anyway, in order to live in this hostel, there are a lot of necessary preparations to be done, and we wish you to look through everything, as the head of the hostel. If we are to do as we please, you will have much things to say when you wake up. Will that be fine?"

"..........."

"Mmm? What's wrong?"

"Urm, sorry."

"It's nothing."

"Really?"

"Yes. Really really, really. Isn't that right, Fuku-Kaichou?"

"That's right. This is the absolute, undeniable truth. Isn't that right, Ginbe?"

"That's right, Akito. It's about time you wake up, and recognize it. The reality in front of you."

"..........."

With that, my mind became awake in an instant.

Though that was something of a little too much impact, so I had the feeling that time came to a halt, like a cat that was about to be hit by an incoming car,

"Eh, but isn't this strange?"

"What is?"

"This hostel is planned to be demolished within this year. Before that, there will only be me and my sister living here - that is how the contract should be."

"Well, I had done something with the management, and made them change the contract."

"I say, why? Why must the three of you move into this hostel together?"

"I should have said that? We need to resolve your sister's brother-complex as quickly as possible, and we had considered many approaches to that problem."

"No, I had indeed heard of that-"

"As for the brother-complex, the most effective measure is,"

This time, it was Nasuhara,

"To prevent you siblings from spending much more time together than necessary, we will have to monitor both of you. As such, the best solution is to live together with you two. Isn't that right?"

"No, maybe that is how it is, but even so-"

"Killing two birds with one stone. That is how it is, Akito."

Ginbe interrupted as well,

"If you are living with other students whom you are not familiar with in the hostel, instead of just both of you, there will be less people who will be looking at you siblings in suspicion. That, to you, should be a good enough benefit?"

"No, I understand, it is indeed like that!"

Upon hearing them saying all that, even I had raised my voice as well.

"Even so, why? Why the three of you together!?"

"That is because, we are to advance and retreat together after the forming of our temporary alliance - then again, we do feel that this is better too. For me, it's about time that I am sick of that oppressive samurai mansion. And it takes way too much time to travel to school."

"That's right, my relationship with my parents had not been too great for quite a long while. And since I am now in my rebellious phase, I have always felt like running away from home when I have the chance."

"As for me, due to the cost incurred from house-moving and transferring of schools, it has caused my finances to be really tight. It has been quite difficult to even pay for the rent of that shabby apartment. To be able to live in this place where I can get food and stuff without spending much, it is something that I can ever wish for."

"No, even so-"

Darn.

I had finally realized how serious the situation was.

Of course, I had indeed thought of that.

Even though it was chaotic, but I definitely was not tired of these few days. In fact, I really liked it.

I had thought, that it was not too bad to be doing stupid things with the fellow members of the students council.

Well, it was also true that I was anticipating for Kaichou's so called 'new tactics'.

But, but?

Ultimately, if we are to talk about my reason for enduring all the hard work within these few years, that is not consistent with that of my age.

It was purely so that I can live together with my only remaining family member, my sister - the two of us living a calm and relaxed life.

It is a definite for Ginbe, but even for Kaichou or Nasuhara, I don't dislike them one bit, and we are fellow members of the students council as well. But it just so happens that all of them are people with one or two troublesome personalities. Not to mention, it seemed like they were hatching a certain unspeakable plan for my sister,

"No, no way! This still can't do after all! There's a lot of problem to this!?"

"Incidentally, it's already been fixed."

"As the head of this hostel, I vehemently object!"

"Well, I'll give this order as the president of the students council. Himenokouji Akito, your role as the hostel's head has been now abolished. And then, as a replacement, I shall be the hostel's head as well. Will this do?"

"That's way overboard!? It's too unreasonable!"

"Alright, just give up. My powers as the president are absolute, and the council had already agreed on this. As of now on, you can no longer overturn this decision."

"Enough. There is no point talking to Kaichou — Nasuhara! Nasuhara!?"

"What is it?"

"Say something too!"

"Wuzzat?"

"Stop acting stupid with that poor skills of yours!"

"How rude. As someone who is hailed as the hope of the future by the top brass of the cross-talk society, this is a very serious insult. If you do not wish to be indebted with a sum of money so huge, that you will not be able to pay off even if you work out your whole life on the ocean fishing for tuna, then please take back the imprudent words right now."

"Your silly acting was so fake, and yet I don't really care about it at all!"

"I say, it's about time you watch how you act, or I'll be angry real soon, even for someone as gentle as me."

"What do you mean by watching how I act!?"

"I had said before, I wish that you will address me by Anna instead of Nasuhara. If you don't listen to my warning obediently, I'll change all the underwear in your cupboard to their female counterparts."

"I really have to thank you for using two of your favorite gags together at once! Although it does not really matter now!"

"Incidentally, it will all be changed to my lingerie. The used ones."

"A person like you may actually do it, so please don't!? I say, since just now, it had felt like a conversation between us could not be established!"

"Just give up. I had said it before, right? Having faced such humiliation, I'll repay them back in full. To toyed with me so happily, I must repay back the favor to you. This is revenge for that."

"I don't remember toying with you-"

"Prepare yourself. From today onward, everyday, regardless of day or night, and wasting not a single minute and second, I'll be harassing you meaninglessly. Then regret for life, the humiliation that you had given to me."

"I say, this is purely just you wanting to bully me, right!?"

Ahhhh, enough!

It will be a waste of time to speak to her any further!

Then-

"Oi, Gin! Ginbe!"

"What's up, Akito."

"Why are you with them as well! Setting aside Kaichou and Nasuhara, I had actually believed that you are a much more serious person than this!"

"I can't help it. Isn't there a saying, 'one who stays near vermilion gets stained red'? It's the same for me too. I am a student of St. Ririana Academy for now, but I also am a member of the students council. Isn't it inevitable for me to be dyed by their colors much faster and thicker?"

"You, aren't you my friend, no, good friend!? It only takes a single look to realize that I am in trouble, right!? You'll not get struck by lightning if you offer a helping hand, right!?"

"Fufu. Since you had called me as your good friend, I'll say this. It is exactly like how you had worried, back when I had received you at my shabby apartment - I am currently facing a huge crisis in my life. And as you should know, there can only be so much saving and scrimping one can do. To break past this crisis where I am about to receive subsistence allowance, the most effective way is to move into a hostel to seek shelter, which will reduce my living expenses by a substantial amount...... Akito, instead, you should be the one that is inviting me over to the hostel, in order to help me in my troubles, isn't that right? Then you can be considered to be a friend."

"That- no, maybe it is indeed like that!"

"Or do you have other plans? You are planning to chase me out despite knowing about the embarrassing problems that I am facing? That is how you will treat me, who is your good friend, and also your savior as well?"

"Ugh."

"If we are talking about you being indebted to me, shouldn't you repay me the favors at such a time? And we had talked about it a few days ago. 'When I have no other options, I'll not hold back in seeking Akito's help - or should I say, that it will be like that in the near future'. I believed in you, my good friend."

That's bad.

Compared to Kaichou and Nasuhara, at such a moment, Ginbe was actually the most terrible opponent. Just like I had mentioned many times, I had been under her care multiple times. No matter what sort of things she say to me, even if it is things like 'Commit seppuku now to repay me the favors I had done for you', I will have no choice but to do it solemnly.

But with that.

Could it be, should I say that I had no escape routes, or that I was totally checkmated? Perhaps I should say that lifelines were sealed......?

"Fuwaa...... what's happening early in the morning?"

Just at that moment.

My sister waddled out from her bedroom, while still in her pajamas,

"Today's rest day, so allow me to sleep as much as I like, Onii-chan...... Onii-chan's way too awesome last night......"

"Oi oi Akiko. Don't start blabbering rubbish the moment you step out of your room. Ever since our birth, until forever and the rest of time, we had not and will never do anything that is against conscience between both of us."

"Onii-chan there you are again, you really know how to joke~...... Fuwaa."

My sister gave a loud yawn.

Just as what I had said earlier, and everyone should have seen it.

She is always in a horrible state when she has just waken up.

"......Mmm? Eh? Why is Nikaido-senpai here? Both Nasuhara and Ginbe are here as well."

"Oh good day, Himenokouji. A few days later, us three will be living in this hostel. Please take care of us?"

"Ahaha- That's a rather interesting gimmick, senpai. To come here and cause trouble at me and my brother's love-nest, how can there be anyone who will dare to do such a reckless thing~...... Well, that's how it is, I am going back to bed. Please be more quiet."

"...... Uh. Those misty pair of eyes, and the unclear and weird way of speech...... She is totally not awake, right?"

"Wrong-. Akiko is totally awake~. I am full of vigor and energy~"

"I say, Himenokouji. There is something that I want to discuss with you."

"Mmm~?"

"Can you allow me to sleep with you? Ahh, I had woken up rather early as well, and it just so happens that I feel slightly sleepy now. You just have to borrow me a corner of your bed."

"Alright~, that's nothing. Munyu munyu."

"Oi oi wait a second, Akiko!?"

I hurriedly interrupted.

"Do you know what you are saying!? The person is Nikaido Arashi!? -And also, Kaichou! What are you planning to do to my sister in front of me!?"

"No, it's just sleeping with her for a while. I won't really do it."

"I can't trust you!"

"No no no, it really is just a short snooze, I will do nothing, really. Just a little on the head."

"On the head, what head!? Indeed, I can't let this happen! Please do not get close to my sister!"

"Che, what a mouthy fella. Oi Nasuhara, Ginbe. Restrain this fella. This is the president's order."

"I am sorry, but I won't carry out that order."

"Mhmm. Though we have our hierarchy in the students council, there is no need to be following Kaichou's instructions at such a time."

"Just to tell both of you. If I can take this opportunity to make Himenokouji my lover, then the problem of Himenokouji's brother-complex can be more or less settled, and the elder brother's sister-complex will no longer be a big problem as well?"

"Understood. I am totally not enthusiastic about it, but since this is Kaichou's orders, then it cannot be helped."

"Mhmm. Though it is really regretful, but since this is Kaichou's orders, I can only follow it. I'll have no choice but to restrain Akito despite my grief."

"Oi oi slow down, both of you!?"

"I will not let you get in the way of Kaichou and Himenokouji. Since you are part of the students council as well, you do know that defying Kaichou's orders means death, right?"

"Since when have the students council became a society that is so strictly ruled!? Nasuhara, don't be complying to Kaichou only at times like this! I will have to rescue my sister's chastity from Kaichou's evil grasp!"

"Ugh. To be that agitated by this thing...... Akito, you are indeed a severe sis-con, aren't you? No matter what, this is a serious situation, for the siblings of the students council to be in a relationship of love. There is a need to rectify this as quickly as possible."

"No so I say, that is just a misunderstanding, Ginbe! I am neither a sis-con, nor are we in love with each other! I say, typically, one should be stopping Kaichou at a situation like this, right!? Being Akiko's elder brother!"

"Fuwaaa...... Though it looks like you guys are in some sort of entanglement. I am nearly at my limits, so let me return back to sleep? Fuwaaa......."

"Ohhh, I am sorry, Himenokouji, for making you wait. Let's forget about that boring entanglement and throw it aside for the moment, and let me be entangled with you in another way. It's nothing, don't worry. Believe in my techniques."

"Or rather, the fact that your skills are overly trustworthy - that's the main problem right here, Kaichou! I say, oi, it is about time that you wake up, Akiko! It is regretful, but your elder brother is currently being held down by Nasuhara and Ginbe, and I can't move an inch! You have to protect your own body! ...... I say, forget about Ginbe, but why is Nasuhara that strong as well!? I still know some sort of self-defense, and I am a guy! Really, this students council has way too many capable members...... Oi Kaichou! Please value yourself more! Nasuhara and Ginbe, stop restraining me by locking down on my joints! Oi oi! Really, don't! Oi-!"

***

...... That's roughly how it was.

Lots of things had happened, but I had finally managed to get by the crisis where my sister's chastity was in danger.

Regarding the fact that the students council members are moving into the hostel, should I say that it was natural for that to happen, or what. I had already felt it slightly, that it will become a reality, no matter how much I protest.

Ahh, what a headache. It had been chaotic enough, and now Kaichou, Nasuhara and Ginbe had formed the anti-sister alliance, and began their movements. I am looked down on as a sis-con as well.

I was besieged from all sides, while being alone without any support.

To think I had originally thought that I can finally live a peaceful life together with my sister. Not a month had passed, and things had already became like this.

Ahh, things are really terrible.

Even if I had miscalculated, things should not be like this.

Though it will be really troublesome, from now on, I must try to maintain a good relationship with the three people whom I think I am getting along well with, as much as I can. I could only think positively.

Oh boy......

Chapter 6: 13th April, PM2:00

It's a rest day for school on the next day as well.

I had scheduled to meet the people of that side in the daytime.

I was introduced to her via Ginbe's network, and I had acted rather irresponsibly towards her for a brief moment of time. Generally speaking, I won't be able to lift my head up when I am in front of her.

Ultimately, the person who is in charge of me is a person with a really high level of tolerance, and I do only act spoilt towards her. This time, I had dragged on the dateline to its absolute limit, causing her to cry. [TLNote: again, the 撒娇 term.... spoilt seems to work the best here, but it does not really fit.]

"Ah. Akito."

At a really economical tea-shop, that is located at a slight distance away from the train station, in a corner of a shopping street.

In the seat at the deepest corner, she was sitting there as usual.

"Nice to see you, Jinno. Sorry to have made you wait."

"It's nothing. I have just reached here as well~"

Kaaruko Jinno, twenty-five years old.

Her distinctive points are her childish face which does not match her age, her gentle smile and her slightly drooping eyes. She is in charge of me.

"No, I am really sorry. I had dragged on the dateline for way too far this time."

"It's nothing, waiting is part of my job as well~"

"It is a really big help for you to say that, really."

"But then Akito? Our president do hold hopes for Akito, and think that you have the potential to go far. Let's not talk about the deadline for the moment, but it will be hard for me to do things if you do not repay that expectation of you, you know~"

"Ah, you are totally right about that. ......Then again, regarding this job......"

"Right, well then, let us get down to business."

I ordered a cup of hot red tea, while Jinno had ordered hot cocoa with whipped cream. We then returned to our seats.

"To conclude~......"

Jinno said while taking out a stake of photocopy papers from her bag,

"The draft this time is really wonderful. The emotional entanglement that was born between the characters, felt extremely real. I was absorbed by it without me knowing, and finished it in one shot."

"Thanks for your praises."

"Just that, it still feels a little raw, the parts where you had written with your emotion and feelings. Let us correct those areas one at a time. Firstly~"

......Well.

I guess by now, you should understand as well.

The thing which allows me to maintain my livelihood, which I had been hiding from the people around me, including my younger sister. I am the so called person who lived using his pen, or author.

I am no writer either, since I am mainly writing novels that will be published in their individual books. I am not boasting, but it should be fine even if I call myself a novelist. Though the sales of my books and my popularity are still not on the level that will allow me to introduce myself to others as one proudly.

"...... Well, generally that is how it is~. Akito, do you have any opinions on that?"

"Nope, none. The areas that you have pointed out are really true. Even I myself think that they are slightly subtle. I'll rewrite all those areas, yeah."

"I understand. Akito is really candid about things like these, so it is much easier for me as well, really~"

"Ahh, as I had always dragged you down regarding the deadlines, at the very least, I'll need to be an obedient boy in this aspect."

"That's really how it is~. Akito is actually just a newcomer, and yet he still drags on the deadline like this. Typically speaking, that is unthinkable, you know~?"

"Ahh, it is really like that. I'll settle it properly, yeah."

Though her lines were preaching me, but the expressions on Jinno's face were really gentle. It did not make me feel frightened one single bit, rather, I was healed by it.

She's honest and serious. Although her work efficiency is not too high, but she is passionate about her work. Jinno is someone who is will loved by her fellow colleagues and her superiors.

If possible, I do not wish to add on any trouble as well, and I did think of making her get the recognition she deserves by writing some well-selling books. But in the current situation, I am still just a newbie.

"Well, our president is like that."

With an expression akin to that of a dog napping with its belly exposed, Jinno said to me.

"Me too, I have high hopes for Akito's talents as well. For your age, despite having released only a few volumes of work, you had managed to write a draft like this. It's really impressive, that oppressive feeling from your work...... and yet Akito is someone who has a gentle and mature personality. How exactly do you manage to write novels like these......"

"Well, for this time, it is because my private life has been slightly chaotic. As such, it became hard for me to find time to write the draft. In the end, it became the situation where I had finished it at one go throughout the night. Something like that. Regarding that, it is not something really desirable."

"Uh- mmm. Indeed, it is partially due to that as well, but......"

Jinno smirked, and muttered,

"I say Akito. I am saying this not as your editor, but from my personal stand."

"Haa. What?"

"I am thinking...... Akito, you are a sis-con, right?"

"Ha?"

The unexpected question stunned me.

"Eh? Me? A sis-con?"

"Yes. You are, Akito."

"No no no no, what are you talking about? I am not a sis-con."

"Eh-? Is that so?"

Ahhhhh, really.

Not just the members of the students council, but Jinno actually had that sort of misunderstanding as well.

"Of course, I do really dote on my younger sister. She is my only relative left, and we had been forced to live apart, so I'll have to dote on her even more. It is right to say that I care about my sister much more than anyone else in the world. But as her relative, as her elder brother, that is natural, right?"

"Really. Is that how it is?"

"Well of course. Without a doubt."

"But but Akito."

It was rare of Jinno to continue chasing on the matter.

"For example, Akito will do things like that, right? To make a sort of note, like a 'Sister's Dairy', and record on it daily, right? What had your sister eaten that day, what she had said, how many times she had been angry, and how many times she had laughed - things like that."

"Of course? As her elder brother, it is natural for me to be concerned about the situations that my sister is in, at all times. Not to mention, I am currently taking the role as her parents as well."

"And, Akito will take a lot of pictures of your sister and print them all out, then frame them up and store them properly, right?"

"Yeah, of course? There are many old photos where I no longer have their negatives. Even for those with the negatives, I still print them all out, and store them properly. Is there anything wrong with that?"

"...... Uhh- mmm. If so, you cannot consider it as normal, right? I feel that normal elder brothers in this world, will not do such things to their younger sisters......"

Arara.

That had quite a bit of impact on me.

Let us not talk about those overly suspicious bunch of people from the students council, but to think that the editor whom I trust, Jinno, are actually saying things like that as well. I really had not anticipated that. I do feel that she is a really capable editor, but being overly arbitrary is perhaps the only small flaw of hers.

"I might as well take this opportunity to clear things up. Jinno, that is just your misunderstanding. You are totally wrong, and you cannot be more wrong than that."

"Ehhhhh~? Is that so?"

"Ultimately, to begin with, you are wrong to think that I am your typical elder-brother. With our parents dead, and us siblings being separated before we finally got back together again. I am not just her elder-brother, but I have to take on the role of being that girl's parents as well. For parents, they are always concerned about the growth of their children, right? They will use cameras and video-cams and such to snap the looks of their children, right? That's exactly how it is. There is absolutely nothing suspicious about it."

"Uhhhmmm~......"

"I say, Jinno is the only child right? If so, things like 'you are different from the typical elder-brothers' coming from you, it's not really convincing."

"Uuuuhhhh...... But, but?"

Jinno still refused to give up.

"I do think that Akito's works are really charming. It totally does not have the so-called 'fanservice' typical in many of the current days work, and instead it has the sort of intense feeling that says 'Compared to that sort of things, just come and read my novels! How's that!?'."

"Thank you for your praise. I am really happy to be hearing you say that."

"Though I have said that, honestly, based on the contents of your works, they are rather picky in regards to the readers, and as such it is not really great for the sales."

"Regarding that, I have no excuse for it...... Sorry to have troubled you."

"However, even though Akito's works are picky about its readers, but due to that, once the readers like your work, they will be supporting your works for life - that's how it feels. That's what your works are. Our president is rather optimistic about that point of Akito. Thus, even though the profits are slightly, no, rather difficult, but we are still continuing in our investments in Akito's talents."

"Thank you, really. I think that if the president had not have hopes on me, then I would not have been able to get my hands on the living expenses required for me and my sister."

"And also. According to your words just now, Akito had denied the fact that you are a sis-con, right?"

"Yeah, that's how it is."

"Then-"

Jinno took out a book from her bag.

She turned the cover towards me.

While hiding behind the back of the book, she peeked at me and said timidly.

"Regarding the fact that you had written a work like this, how do you feel? Shindou Koichirou-sensei."

If you want to ask what sort of book is that, it's nothing major, really.

<The Story of Forbidden Love> - that was my debut work.

"I see, that's how it is."

I felt like I can understand it.

At the same time, I felt rather helpless as well.

"Jinno."

"Yes."

"Are you suspicious of me because of that?"

"That is because-"

She said in a rather bewildered tone,

"It's a novel that has a theme of incestuous sex, right? This book."

"Yes. That's right."

"The names of the main characters, are Akio and Akina, right?"

"Yes. That's right."

"...... Ugh......"

Towards Jinno, who could no longer carry on with her words,

"I guess, I can understand what you are trying to say."

"Well, yes. In any case, what I want to say is that......"

"It's simple, Jinno. That sort of misunderstanding will be solved in an instant. I just need a single sentence for you to be able to accept it totally."

"One sentence? What is it?"

"It will not do to mix fiction with reality."

I shrugged, and laughed.

"That can't do, Jinno. Ignoring the typical readers for a second, I am rather shocked to hear those words from you."

"H-Haa. Ugh, that..... but Akito-"

"Of course, in order to make it easier for me to inject in my feelings, I had given the main characters names that are similar to that of us siblings. But a fiction is still ultimately just a fiction, it's something that is fabricated. There is a line that says 'This story is a work of fiction, and has no relation with any existing person, groups or organization', right?"

"Though that is not wrong...... Ugh- mmm? Eh~?"

Jinno was moving her head about repeatedly.

"Is that so? It somehow feels like something is wrong......"

"It is just your illusion. Please grab hold of yourself. You are my editor."

"Y-Yes. I will do that. ......Uh, well then, these are generally the opinions that I have for the draft this time. But from next time onward, please do not drag on the schedule and make it this tight - try to arrange it such that there is more allowance...... ok?"

"Understood. I am considered to be a professional as well. I'll handle things properly regarding that. That's fine, right?"

"Mmm, then I shall leave things in your care."

"Well, let's stop for the day. If I am away from home for too long, my sister will get naggy."

"Is that so, your sister will get naggy~. ......Ah, Akito, do you want to go somewhere for lunch? As a sort of celebration, since your draft has been completed."

"Ah- I am sorry, but I think my sister has cooked and is waiting for me. Perhaps next time."

"Ah, that's how it is~. How regretful."

"Well, that's all for today then. Thank you for your hard work."

"Thank you. ......Uh- mmm? Eh?"

...... Though up until the point where we parted, Jinno was still tilting her head and saying, "it still feels a little weird."

Am I that untrustworthy?

Forget it, since her not fully trusting me was mainly caused by myself. As long as I continue work hard, I should be able to gain back the trust.

And also, there's that. I better beep it a secret from Jinno, about how it seems like my sister is a die-hard fan of my works. If I say things like that, then it will probably become a source of yet another misunderstanding, yeah.

***

Alright.

With all these, the story had came to an end for now.

"Due to some reasons, they were forced to be separated -omitted- compiled into a simple, boring story."

— That was what I had initially said, though as usual, it was derailed rather spectacularly yet again. I am already too lazy to apologize for going back on my words, time and time again.

If so, I shall not go against the flow of things that had happened until now. Rather, I should try to actively record down the chaotic days to come - that's how I feel.

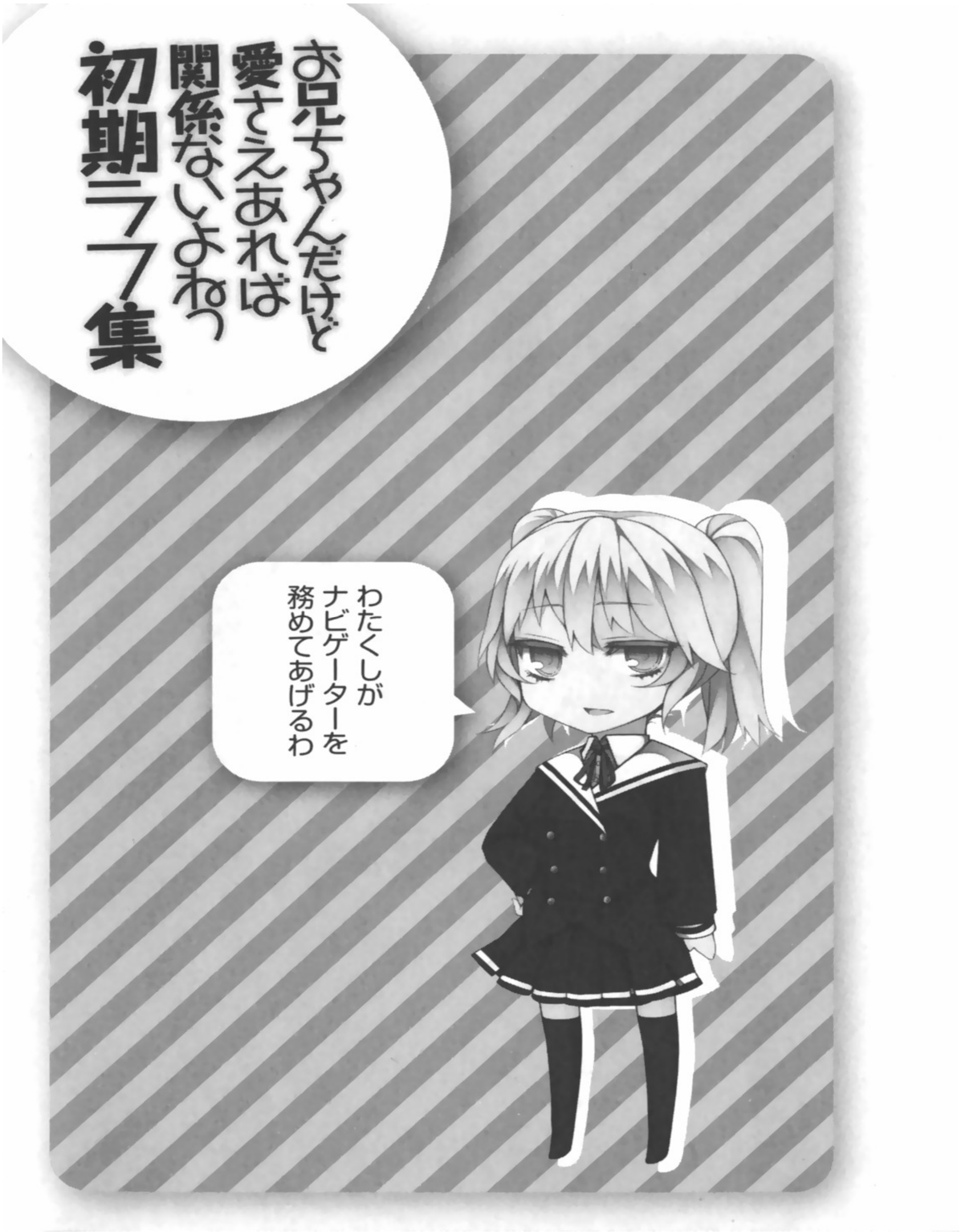
And then, it is fortunate - or rather, it is something troublesome.

Just as though it wants to respond to my narration earlier, yet another troublesome thing is about to strike.

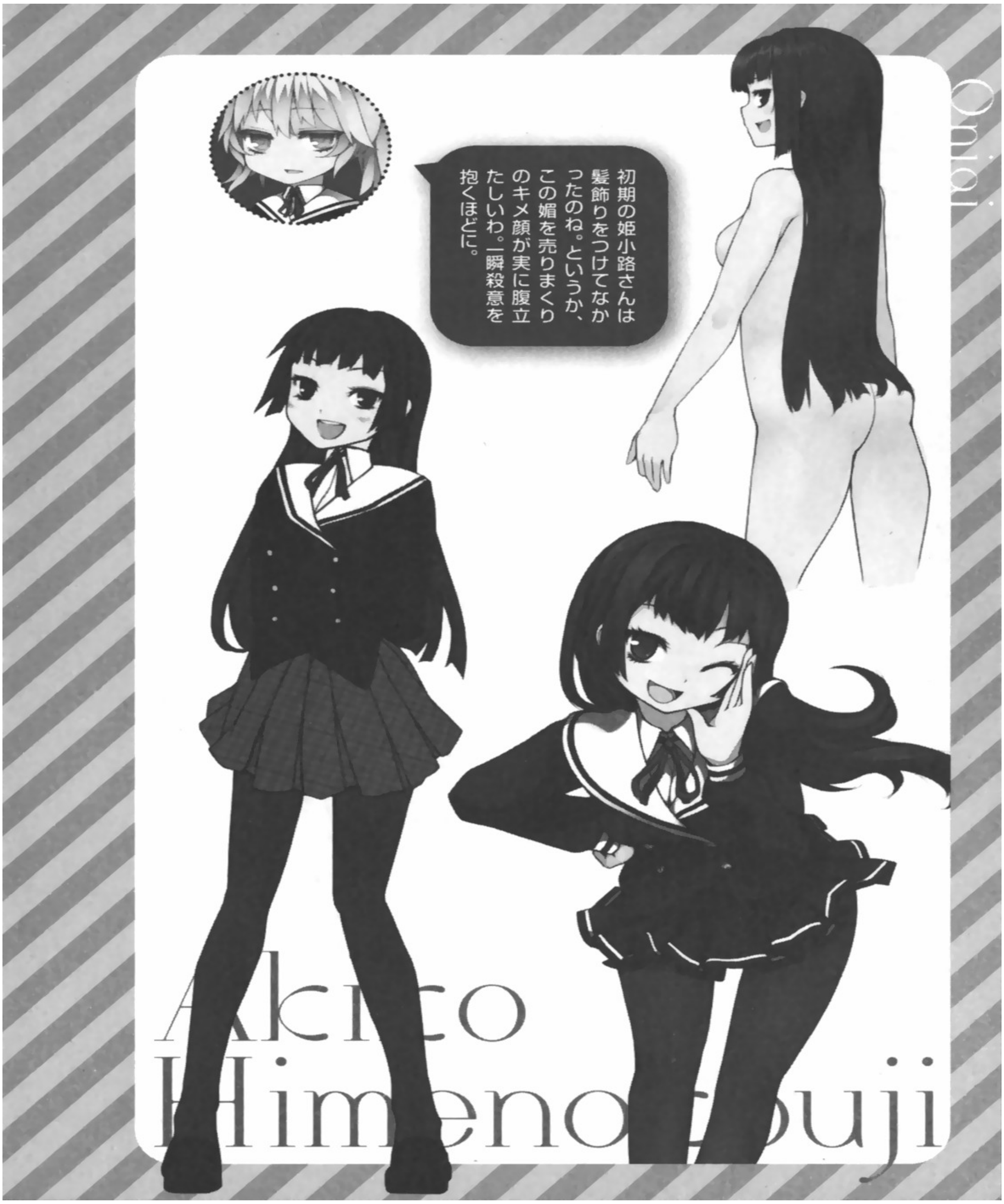
As such, I shall do a simple preview.

The next time. The fact about me and my sister not being blood-related siblings, that truth shall be exposed.

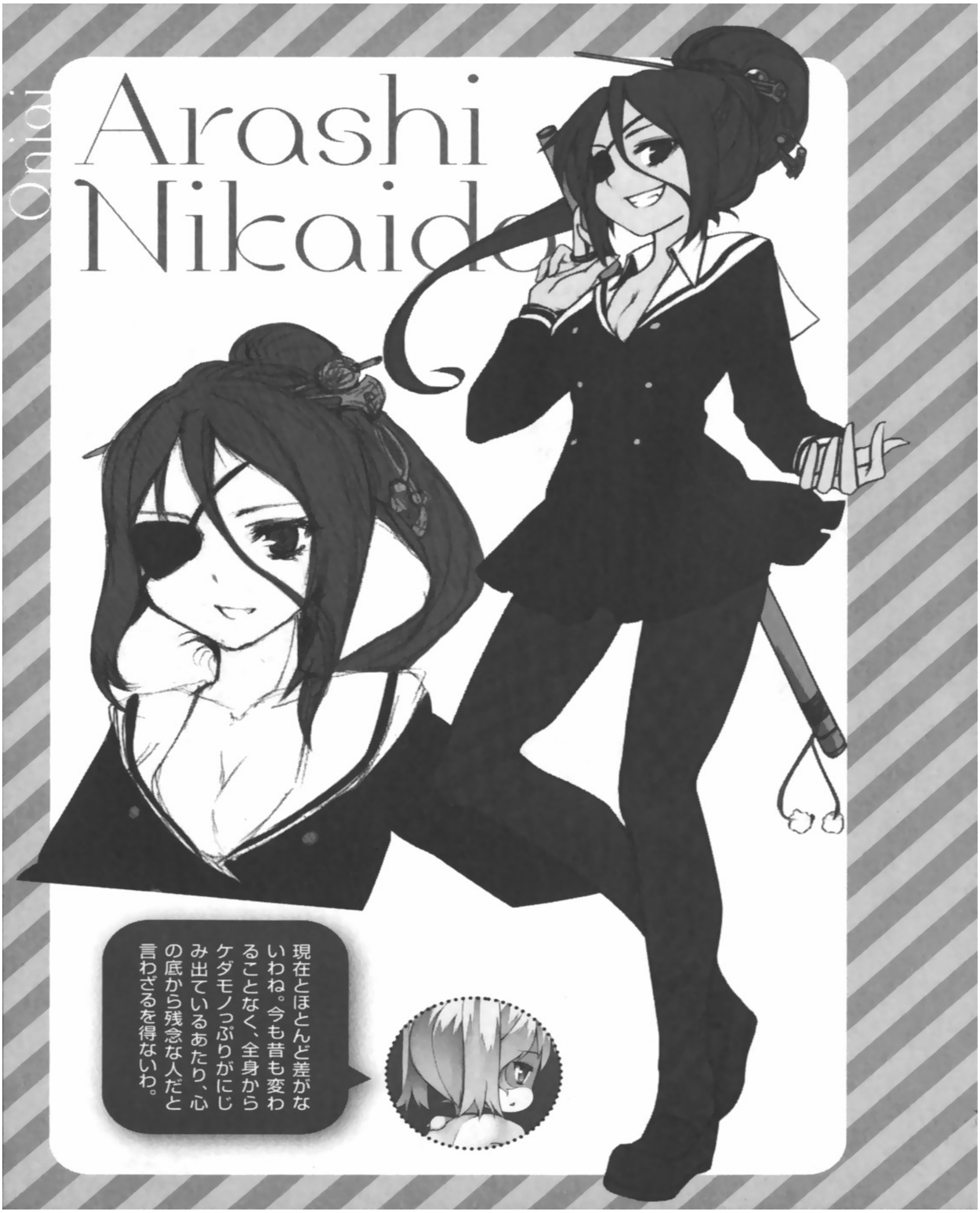
...... Well then, may we meet again.


お兄ちゃんだけど愛さえあれば関係ないよねっ初期ラフ集
わたくしがナビゲーターを務めてあげるわ

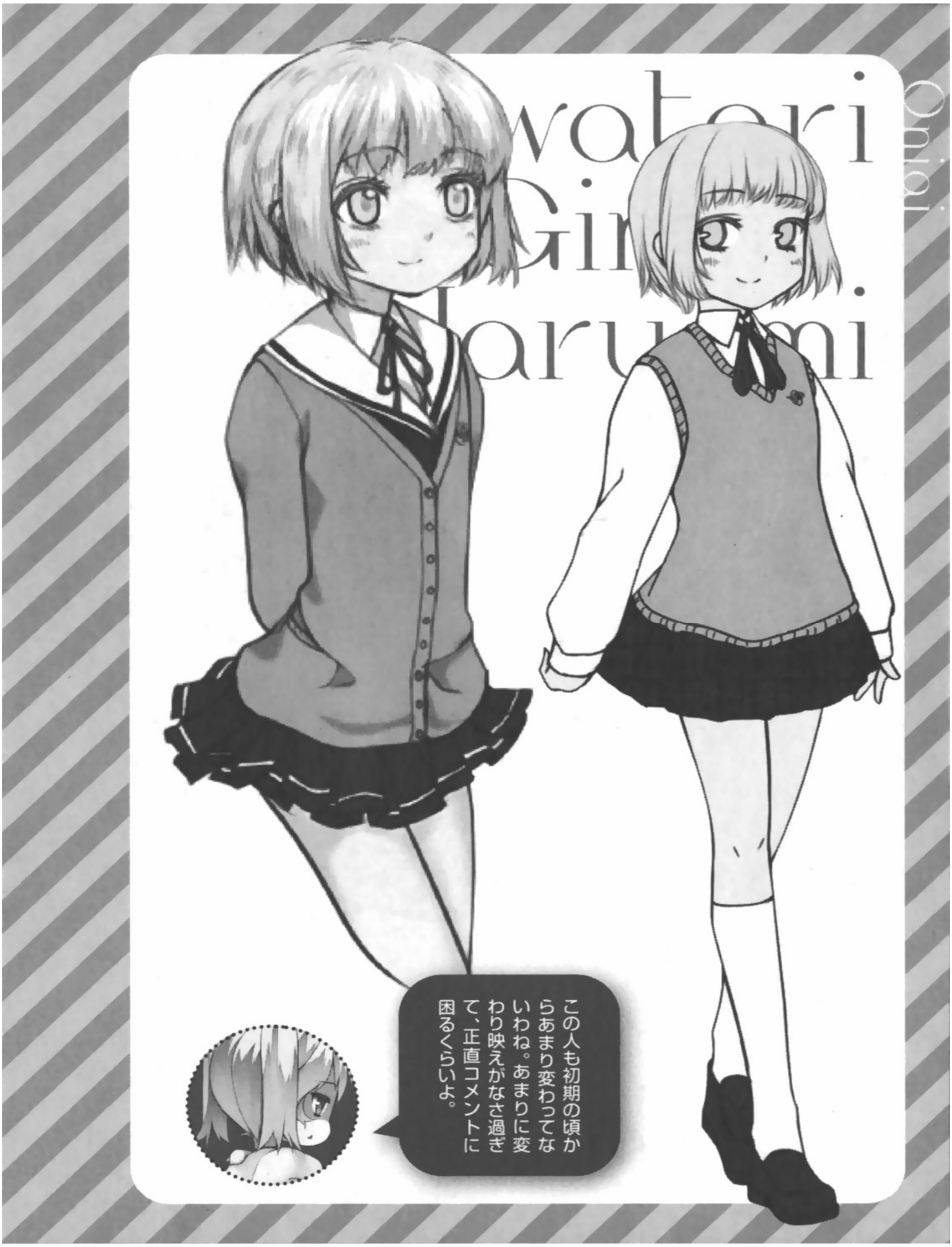
It will be my job to assist you people through the navigation of the initial drafts.


Oniai
初期の姫小路さんは髪飾りをつけてなかったのね。というか、この媚を売りまくりのキメ顔が実に腹立たしいわ。一瞬殺意を抱くほどに。
Akiko Himenokouji

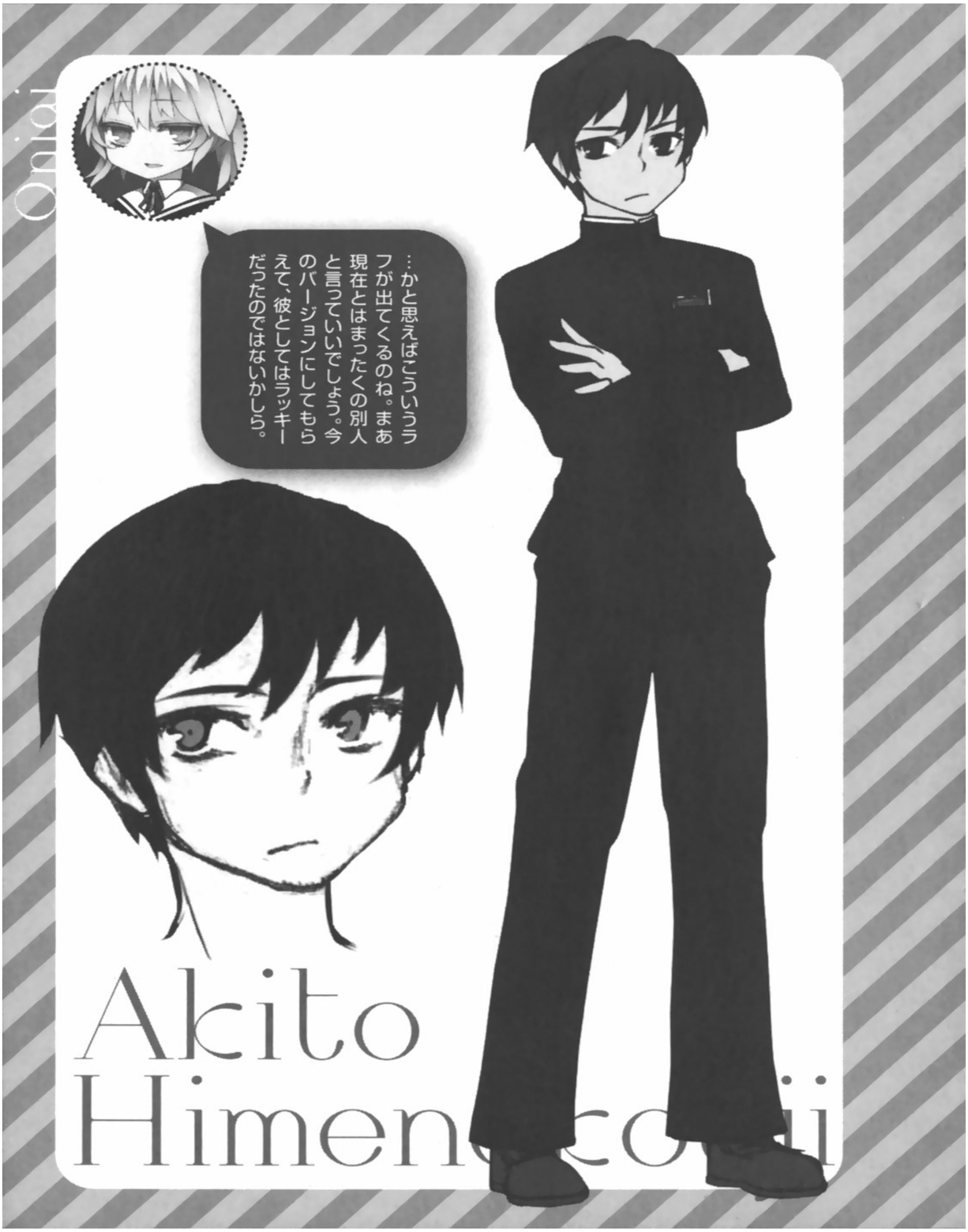
The initial Himenokouji has no hair accessory. I say, those flattering expression of hers really pisses me off. It have even triggered my killing instinct for a brief moment.


Oniai
Arashi Nikaido
現在とほとんど差がないわね。今も昔も変わることなく、全身からケダモノっぷりがにじみ出ているあたり、心の底から残念な人だと言わざるを得ないわ。

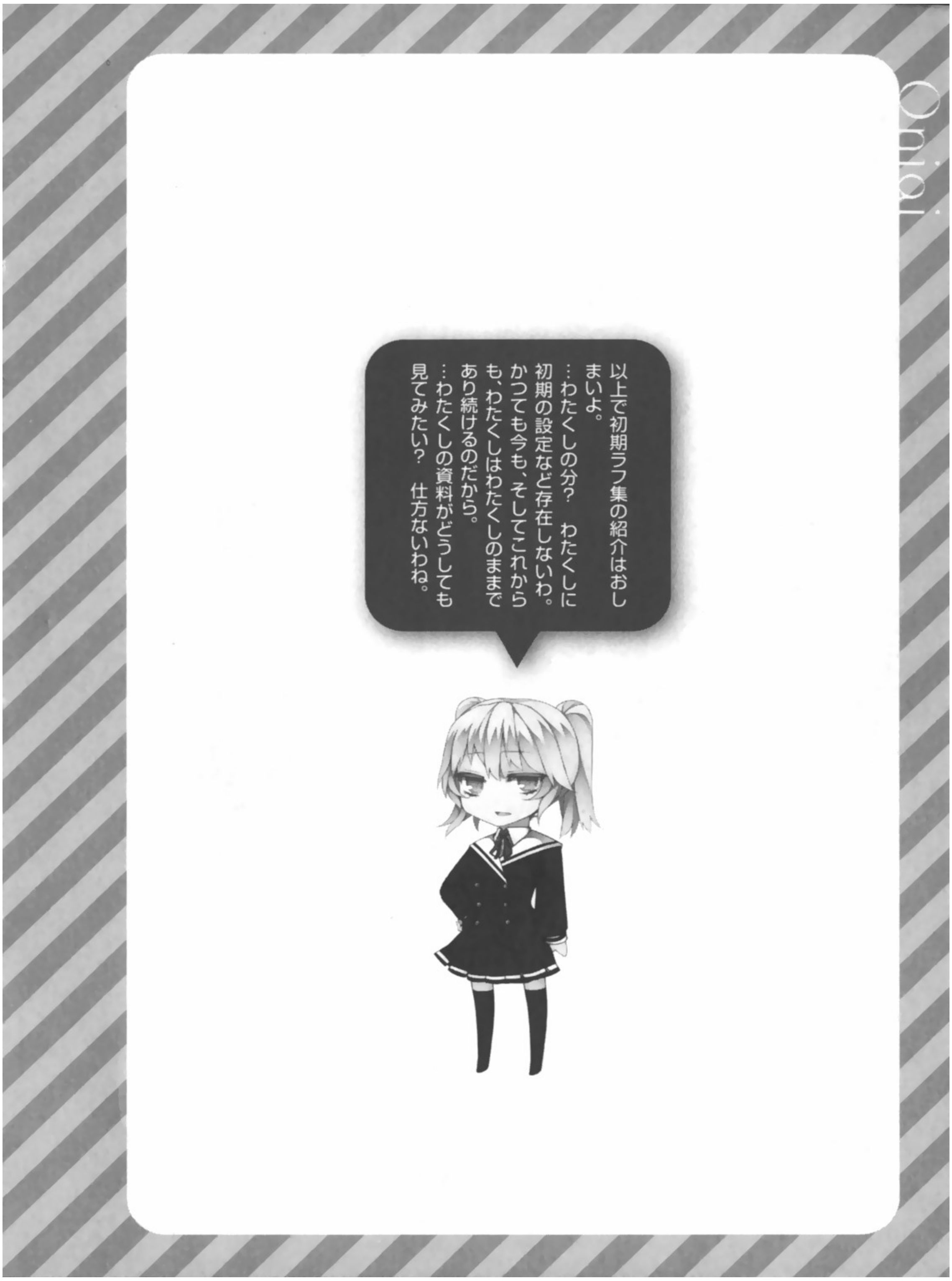
There is not much difference with the current version. The present form is the same with that of the past. One can only feel that it is a real shame, regarding the fact that her whole body gives out the aura of a wild beast.


Oniiai
この人も初期の頃からあまり変わってないわね。あまりに変わり映えがなさ過ぎて、正直コメントに困るくらいよ。

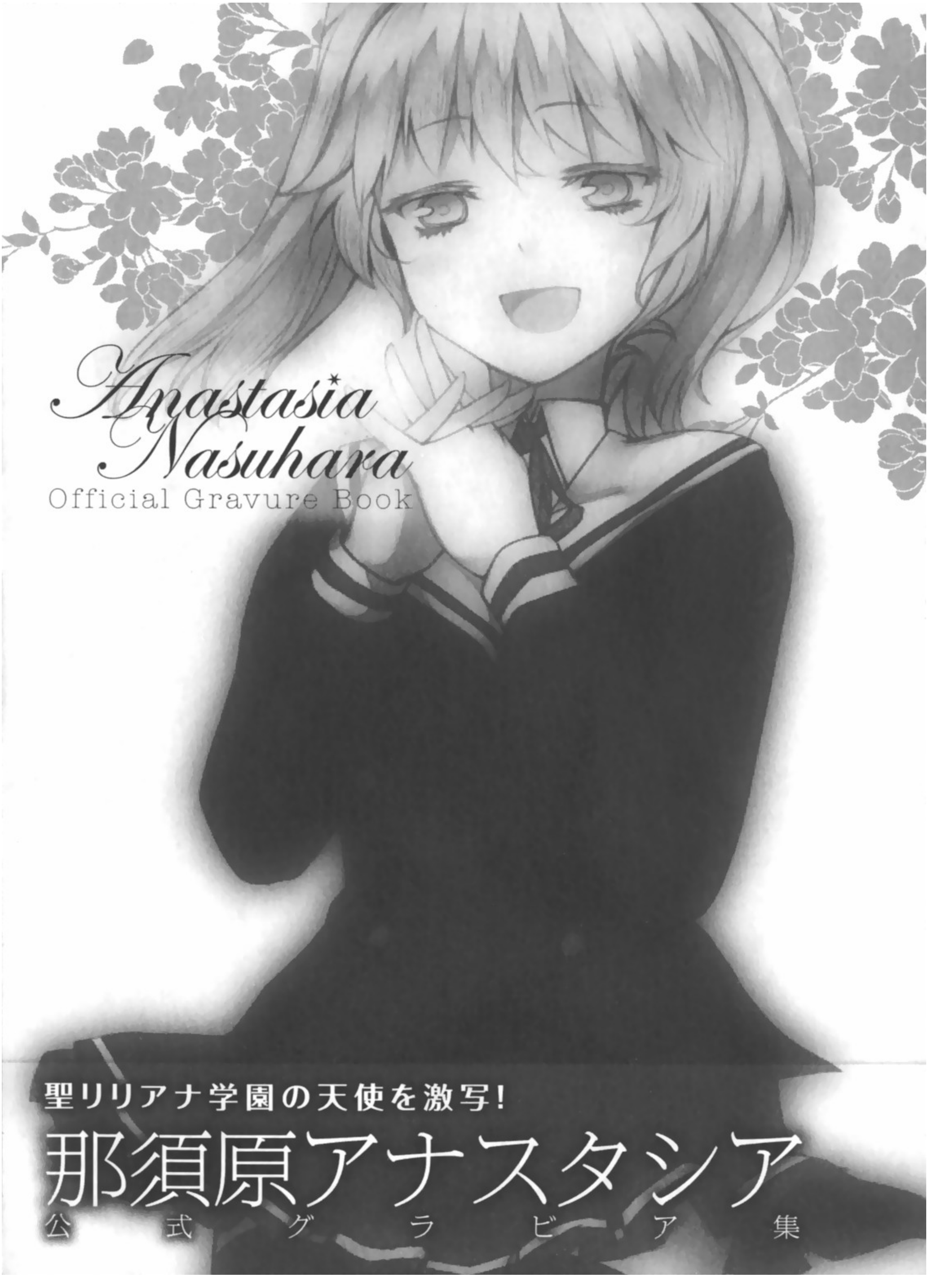
This person has not change too much from the initial draft as well. It is to the point where I can really see no change, and it is hard for me to make any sort of comments. Well She’s still ShinOtoko’s Waifu.


Oniai
…かと思えばこういうラフが出てくるのね。まぁ現在とはまったくの別人と言っていいでしょう。今のバージョンにしてもらえて、彼としてはラッキーだったのではないかしら。
Akito
Himen co ii

...... I am still thinking about it, then here comes a draft like this. Well, this is a totally different person from the current version. Should he consider himself to be rather lucky, for him to be the current version of himself?


Oniai
以上で初期ラフ集の紹介はおしまいよ。
…わたくしの分？　わたくしに初期の設定など存在しないわ。かつても今も、そしてこれからも、わたくしはわたくしのままであり続けるのだから。
…わたくしの資料がどうしても見てみたい？　仕方ないわね。

That is all to the introduction of the initial drafts.
...... My portion? There isn't such a thing as an initial draft for me.
Because it does not matter if it is the past, present or the future, I will always continue to exist as myself.
...... You wish to see my data no matter what? I guess it can't be helped.


Anastasia Nasuhara
Official Gravure Book
聖リリアナ学園の天使を激写!
那須原アナスタシア
公式グラビア集

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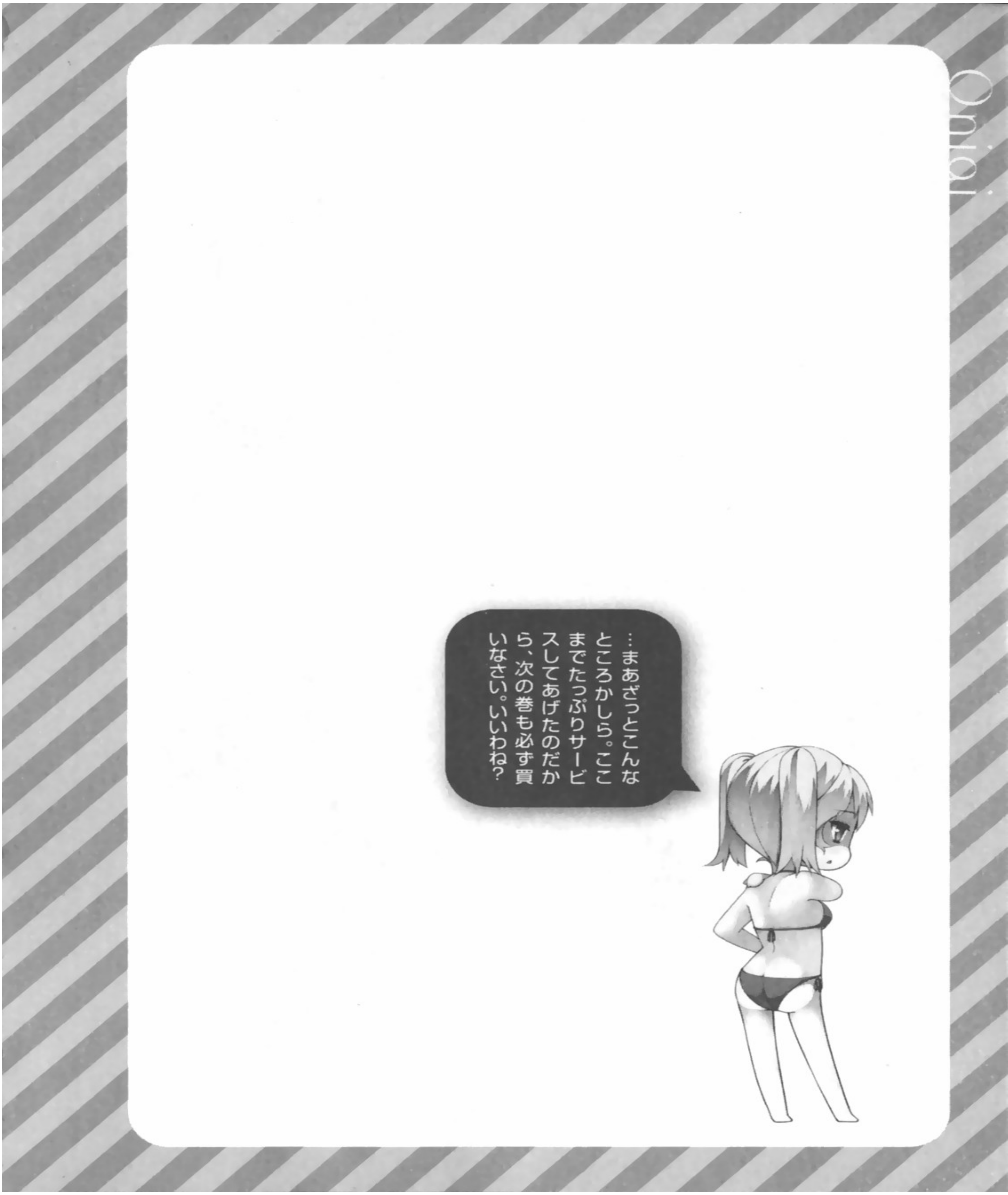
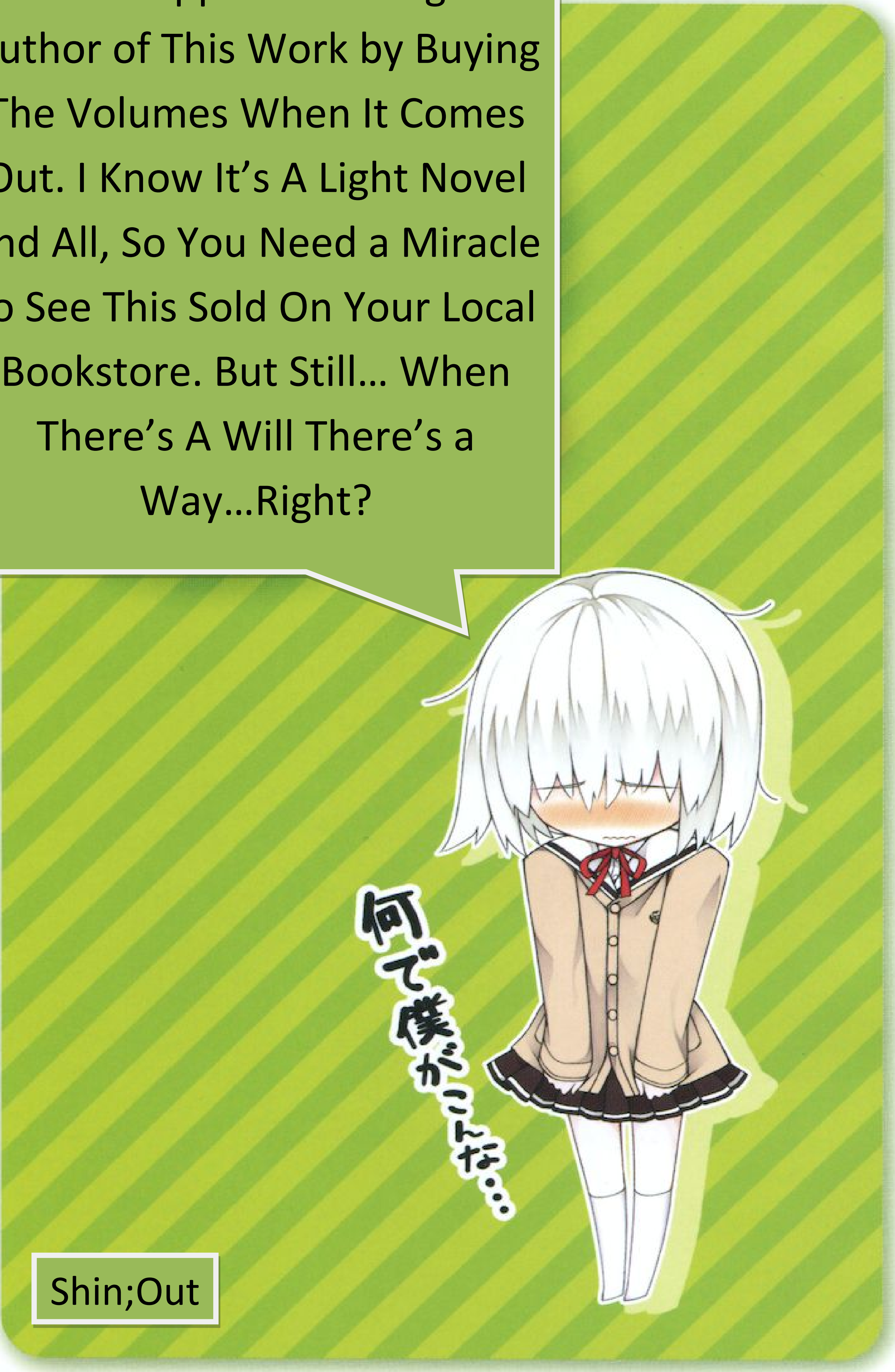

Omiai
…まあざっとこんなところかしら。ここまでたっぷりサービスしてあげたのだから、次の巻も必ず買いなさい。いいわね？

...... Well, that's roughly it. Since I gave service to such an extent, be sure to buy the next volume. Get it?

Please Support The Original Author of This Work by Buying The Volumes When It Comes Out. I Know It's A Light Novel and All, So You Need a Miracle to See This Sold On Your Local Bookstore. But Still… When There's A Will There's a Way…Right?



Shin;Out